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KENT ON SUNDAY

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IT'S WHAT SUNDAYS ARE ALL ABOUT

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ALSO INSIDE: SEE OUR APPOINTMENTS SECTION AND FIND YOUR DREAM JOB

ANGER AT HIKE IN WATER BILLS

Frugal customers save water but pay price with increase

By STEVE KNIGHT

COMPANIES supplying water to Kent households have been slammed for introducing some of the biggest bill increases in England and Wales.

Families previously supplied by Mid Kent Water before it merged with South East Water can now expect a huge rise of 7.9 per cent, which equates to an average of £13 per year.

Southern Water has also announced a large increase of 5.6 per cent, or £20 per year on average. Both rises are above the three per cent rate of inflation.

Bills for other South East Water customers will increase by three per cent on April 1, Thames Water by 2.4 per cent and Sutton and East Surrey Water by 1.1 per cent.

However, customers of Folkestone and Dover Water can look forward to paying 0.3 per cent less than last year.

Kent County Council leader Paul Carter described the larger increases as being "totally unacceptable".

He added: "I'm not sure the water companies are working together to maximise the opportunities to reduce the cost of supply.

"The more housing that is built, the more infrastructure that is needed and the only way to pay for that is by putting up rates.

"The current legislation where water companies have to charge existing customers for new homes is thoroughly unfair.

"The water resource issue should be much more linked to local development frameworks and where the planning takes place. I think Ofwat (the water regulator) has a major role to play in this."

David Bland, chairman for the London and South East division of watchdog the Consumer Council for Water, accused the firms of hitting customers with higher bills because consumers had been too good at conserving water.

He said the firms had been losing out since the South East drought of 2005-07 because people were now more conscious about water consumption. Therefore, anyone on a water meter was saving money – but reducing the utility firms' income.

However, both Ofwat and Kent's providers denied this, saying they were operating within limits set back in 2004.

South East Water managing director Paul Butler said increases were to help pay for its £355 million investment in maintaining and improving water services.

He added: "While the majority of our

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

* Includes all surcharges and taxes. See website for details and full terms and conditions.

Labour blamed as BNP win by-election

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
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GROWING fears over unemployment have allowed the far-right British National Party to swipe a safe seat from Labour in a council by-election.

The BNP's candidate Paul Golding won at Swanley St Mary's with a 76-vote majority after an above-average turnout at the polling booths on Thursday.

Cllr Peter Fleming, leader of Tory-controlled Sevenoaks District Council, said: "It is one of the safest Labour seats in Kent and it shows how disillusioned people are with Gordon Brown that they have turned to extremists. It is a party that plays to people's fears and in the circumstances we are in people have fear about lots of things. It is the Labour vote that has collapsed."

The 'whites-first' party was celebrating on Friday after its first win in Kent, only the second time the party has won a seat on a local council in the South East outside of London.

Cllr Golding, 27, who said he had been a member of the BNP since he was 17, was "over the moon" following the win over Labour candidate Michael Hogg, who got 34 per cent of the vote and the Tories' Tony Searles with 25 per cent.

Cllr Golding said: "It has been a solid Labour seat for 40 years but all I can do is reiterate what people on the doorsteps, the hundreds of people that I spoke to, told me.

"They are sick to death of being treated like second-class citizens in their own country. They are bottom of the list for council houses after asylum seekers and foreigners.

"I was telling people what we stand for and we found the vast majority supported that."

But a spokesman for Sevenoaks District Council said: "All who apply to go on the district's housing register are treated in exactly the same way in accordance with Government guidance.

"The allocations policy does not make reference to groups, hence housing priority points are not awarded on the basis of group. However, applicants can get additional housing points if they live or work in Sevenoaks district or are in employment."

BY-ELECTION: Paul Golding won what had been considered a safe Labour seat

All parties involved reported that young people, particularly men, many of whom were first-time voters, turned up in droves to the polling station.

Cllr Bryan Harrod, leader of the Labour Party at Sevenoaks council, sounded dejected and told how he was disappointed by the loss.

Asked whether Labour should have done more to stop the far-right infiltrating the county, he said: "I do not think we could have. We lost to a BNP campaign which was centring on national issues designed to create discord in the community.

"They campaigned on issues such as unemployment and immigration and nothing to do with the district council. This has been swung by national politics. We campaigned on local issues and our vision for the town."

As a town, Swanley has a high proportion of social housing, pockets of unemployment and, according its Conservative MP Micheal Fallon, is more like areas of south east London than affluent west Kent.

Cllr Harrod said the BNP had thrown resources at the campaign and brought members from "all over the place" to help.

He added the new councillor would have little impact as the only BNP member. He said: "There has always been a hardcore small-scale racist element within certain parts of Swanley and they are being added to by concerns about national things like unemployment and immigration. The strikes about foreign workers did not help."

Jim Halford, a Swanley resident who contacted Kent on Sunday after the by-election, said: "The reason the BNP won is because of Labour's pathetic performance on labour law regarding the European Union. It is because of the workers in the North East losing their jobs to foreigners. 850 workers sacked by BMW, the power struggle on the Isle of Grain regarding Kent jobs for Kent workers."

The 59-year-old bus driver said it was the first time he had seen a lot of young people turn out for an election: "They voted for the BNP because they are scared to lose their jobs and houses, scared of not being able to pay their mortgages… I'm sad the working man is scared out of his wits and is reduced to voting for the BNP hoping they can protect him. I'm angry this Government has let the working man down."

Stephen Ladyman, vice chairman of the Labour Party, said: "It is a great loss and a tragedy when the BNP wins seats anywhere."

'Bills increase needs to balance out our investment'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

investment is funded by borrowing, bills do have to rise to help fund our water supply operations."

Southern Water said its bill rise was to help pay for its £2 billion programme of improvements to its water supply and sewerage services.

Water planning and strategy manager Meyrick Gough said: "During the past four years we have been spending more on service improvements than at any time in our history, and this year will see investment of £300m to complete our improvement programme."

Sutton and East Surrey Water has spent £95m on improvements, Folkestone and Dover about £30m and Thames Water about £4bn.

Mr Bland said the increases came at a time when many people were already struggling to make ends meet.

He said: "There are two things we (the CCW) can do. Firstly, we can go over the water companies' spending plans with a fine-tooth comb and suggest things they can take out.

"Secondly, we can lobby the politicians – people receive support for energy bills, but nobody gets it for their water bills.

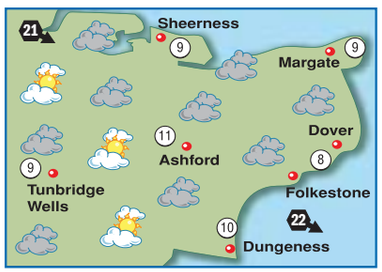
"People outside of the South East see it as a rich location, but we all know there are real areas of poverty in Kent."

Ofwat chief executive Regina Finn said: "We needed to make some tough decisions in 2004 when we set prices. Investment was vital, but we needed to balance it with keeping bills down.

"Across the whole of England and Wales our work has kept customers' bills about £100 lower than they would have been.

"We are due to finalise prices for customers for 2010 to 2015 at the end of this year and we will make sure they receive a fair deal."

Kent today



TODAY: A dry day is in prospect with cloudy conditions for much of the time, but some bright or sunny intervals will break through in places. A brisk northwesterly wind. Max temp 8-11C (46-52F).
TONIGHT: Dry with cloud and a few clear spells. A gentle north-westerly wind. Min temp 3-6C (37-43F).

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	cloudy	9	48	London	cloudy	9	48
Belfast	cloudy	11	52	Liverpool	cloudy	11	52
Birmingham	cloudy	9	48	Manchester	cloudy	9	48
B'mouth	cloudy	10	50	Newcastle	fair	9	48
Bristol	cloudy	9	48	Norwich	cloudy	10	50
Cardiff	cloudy	10	50	Oxford	cloudy	10	50
Cork	cloudy	11	52	Southsea	fair	10	50
Edinburgh	cloudy	10	50	S'hampton	cloudy	9	48
Glasgow	cloudy	9	48	Southport	sun	–	–
Isle of Man	cloudy	9	48	Swansea	cloudy	9	48
Leeds	cloudy	9	48	Torquay	cloudy	10	50

Sun & moon

Sunrise	6.55am	Sunset	5.23pm	Lighting up times:
Moonrise	5.56am	Moonset	2.35pm	5.23pm to 6.53am

High Tides

	today				tomorrow			
		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)
Dover	09.48	5.7	22.03	5.9	10.23	5.9	22.36	6.2
Margate	10.48	4.2	22.51	4.2	11.27	4.4	23.28	4.4
St Mary's	03.15	4.8	15.38	4.7	03.52	5.1	16.12	5.0

Week ahead

monday Cloudy. Dry. max 10C min 5C
tuesday Cloudy. Dry. max 10C min 4C
wednesday Mainly dry. max 10C min 3C
thursday Cloudy. Dry. max 9C min 2C
friday Sunny spells. max 10C min 3C
saturday Sunny spells. max 10C min 3C

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Conservative MP slams police over advice for immigrants

PCs are 'too PC'

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
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A POLICE booklet for immigrants that makes Kentish people appear "racist, homophobic and xenophobic" has been blasted by a Conservative MP.

Gravesham representative Adam Holloway says the publication, A practical guide to the law for your safety and information, gives foreigners the wrong impression because it focuses too much on how to report racial abuse.

He also criticises the lack of any mention of the 999 service within the booklet, which instead promotes a hotline for immigrants who have become victims of crime due to their ethnic, religious or sexual background.

Mr Holloway said: "I find it extraordinary that Kent Police can produce a booklet that in a sense says 'Welcome to Kent. We are racist, homophobic, xenophobic, ageist and do not value you if you are disabled or gay, and here's a booklet telling you how to make a complaint against us'.

"What sort of message are we giving people? The police have their priorities wrong and have totally given in to this politically-correct and damaging claptrap."

The former investigative journalist, who once produced a documentary on asylum-seekers, praised the use in the booklet of illustrations of various crimes but questioned why the only telephone number promoted was the Kent Racial Incident Reporting Telephone Line.

He said: "Immigrants come here for a variety of reasons but mainly for work. They are our guests and have to abide by British law. By all means produce a guide to the laws of our country but when they read page one of the English version of this book, they may think they are entering a rather disgusting society, which Kent certainly isn't."

OVER THE TOP: Concerns have been raised that a police booklet for immigrants gives the false impression we live in a racist, homophobic and xenophobic society

Last week Kent Police received widespread criticism for launching a gay essay-writing contest for young children as part of a month-long celebration of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender history.

Mr Holloway said it was about time PCs concerned themselves less with being PC and returned to what they did best – fighting crime: "I fear Kent Police is rather overdoing things. Their job is to protect the public and they need to calm down a bit on this sort of thing.

"They need to remember what their job is."

Deputy Chief Constable Adrian Leppard said the booklet replicated those issued by forces across the country and was given to people who had already contacted the police.

He added: "We always welcome feedback.

"We continually review our services so we can continue to police Kent in the most effective and resourceful way.

"Some of the feedback we have received welcomes the non-emergency telephone numbers, as people may want to report crimes that are not life-threatening.

"Kent Police treats everyone with fairness and equality. We do not tolerate any form of hate crime.

"The booklet raises awareness that hate crime is taken seriously by police and provides information about how to report it, helping ensure this type of crime is not under-reported."

Boy's Oscar dream

THE glitz and glamour of tonight's Oscars ceremony will be experienced in person by one talented Kent schoolboy.

Olutunji Ebun-Cole, 11, from Sittingbourne, will be keeping his fingers crossed New Boy – in which he plays the lead role – comes up trumps in the best live action short film category.

He and mum Jayne left for an all-expenses paid trip to Los Angeles on Monday and will join the likes of Kate Winslet and Mickey Rourke at tonight's festivities.

The Fulston Manor School pupil has also starred in the James Bond film Casino Royale.

Flasher is locked-up

A MAN who exposed himself to children walking to school in Gravesend has been jailed for a year.

Gavin MacDonald, 24, from Gravesend, was sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court after being found guilty of four counts of indecent exposure against a child, exposure against an adult and sexual activity in the presence of a child. Ten of his young victims from a secondary school were forced to provide evidence against MacDonald during his trial.

To see this clip search for 'film'
@ yourkenttv.co.uk

Julie Maddocks' delivers a special report from the recent Dover Film Festival. Search for 'film'.

Allergy cure means boy can go nuts for any food he wants

A SCHOOLBOY has been enjoying Snickers chocolate bars for the first time after his potentially fatal peanut allergy was cured.

Jonny Betts, who lives in Pembury near Tunbridge Wells, was one of four children taking part in the world's first successful peanut 'desensitisation programme'.

The research, which took place at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge, involved the youngsters eating daily doses of peanut flour.

Gradually they trained their bodies to tolerate higher doses over six months, starting with a tiny five milligram serving and building to 800 milligrams, which is the equivalent of five whole peanuts.

Jonny said he suffered an anaphylactic shock at the beginning of the trial as the doctors worked out how high a dose each child could tolerate.

Asked if it was frightening being given something he knew was dangerous for him, the 13-year-old said: "It was not scary, but it was weird.

"Since we found out I was allergic to peanuts everyone has been telling me 'don't eat that'."

Since the trial finished six months ago Jonny has now eaten 32 whole peanuts.

"I didn't know what Snickers were like or Mars bars and so that is lovely. Also things like Indian and Thai food," he said.

"We went to a Thai restaurant to celebrate and I had never tasted anything like it so I'm getting to taste new things.

"I don't have to worry about what I eat now, it's more carefree."

Dr Andy Clark, who led the research, said peanut allergies were common and affected around one in 50 young people in the UK.

But unlike other childhood allergies to things like cow's milk, it rarely goes away.

He said: "Every time people with a peanut allergy eat something, they're frightened it might kill them.

"Our motivation was to find a treatment to change that and give them the confidence to eat what they like. It's all about quality of life."

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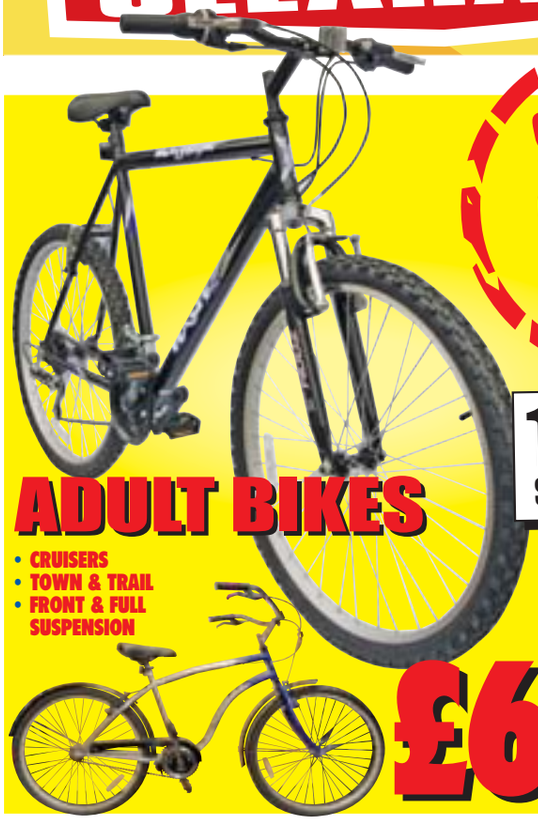

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Labour hits out at KCC 'fat cats' in pay dispute

PROTECTING "fat cat" salaries at Kent County Council is more important to Tory leaders than improving pay for low earners, claim Labour chiefs, ***writes Steve Knight***.

Calls for changes to the authority's wage structure were rejected by full council on Thursday as members voted against a review into high salaries earned by the likes of chief executive Peter Gilroy who is paid more than £200,000 a year.

Derek Smyth, shadow cabinet member for finance, said shaving £350,000 off senior executive wages would have allowed KCC to scrap its lowest pay grade.

This would have had the effect of lifting those workers currently earning between £11,691 and £12,403 up to an annual salary of more than £12,700.

Labour leader Cllr Mike Eddy said: "I cannot imagine why the Conservatives are so keen to maintain their fiction that the poorly-paid can go without while the well-paid need to be cosseted even more.

"There are 28 members of staff on at least £100,000 and that is something that is not approved of by the general public. Making things slightly better for people on low wages, however, is.

"There are considerably more Conservative councillors than Labour, so this proposal never really stood a great chance. They voted like sheep and ensured the fat cats will continue to enjoy the cream and luxury cat food they are accustomed to."

During the budget meeting, angry KCC staff demonstrated outside County Hall in protest at their offer of a one per cent pay award. However, their threats of strike action fell on deaf ears as council members voted to approve the offer.

Generous

KCC leader Paul Carter said: "It appears that opposition members aren't listening or reading their council papers, because we have already agreed to work with the unions to push things upwards. This is all much ado about nothing.

"I think a one per cent offer is actually quite generous when you consider what is going on around the country and I believe any strike action would be very unpopular with the public. The unions seem to be totally out of tune over this.

"As for our high earners, we have bright, young, ambitious people who have helped us become one of the best-performing councils in the country and they deserve to be on good money."

The issue of wages came up towards the end of a lengthy meeting that also saw councillors approve KCC's lowest-ever tax increase of 2.44 per cent.

People living in an average Band D property will pay an extra £24.48 a year – or 47p a week – as a result of the rise.

The police, and borough, district and parish councils will also add their own increases to council tax bills.

Cllr Carter said: "These are very difficult times for everyone so I am very pleased that over the past few weeks we have been able to reduce the council tax increase from our originally-proposed 2.85 per cent.

"An enormous amount of work has gone into making the rise as small as possible.

"With a net increase in our Government grant of just £5.1 million, we have had to make £38.7 million savings to make this possible. This was no easy task.

"In a nutshell, the budget protects and further improves frontline services, delivers a significant increase to highways maintenance and provides some much-needed extra support for those most affected by the recession."

Courtroom is left in tears by mum of murdered teen

MONSTER: Bell strangled Terry Edmonds (left)

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

THE mother of murdered teenager Terry Edmonds reduced a courtroom to tears when she spoke of the pain of losing her daughter.

Homeless Philip Bell, 23, will spend at least the next 28 years behind bars after being found guilty of strangling the 17-year-old before dumping her body in a suitcase, in April, 2006.

Reading a statement moments before Bell was sentenced to life imprisonment at Maidstone Crown Court on Wednesday, Miss Edmonds' mother Helen revealed how her daughter's death had affected the family.

She said: "I know TJ is in a better place than we are now, but it's what she had to go through to get there that makes me sick to my stomach.

"Yes, there have been many victims because of this man's actions. But the one who I will never see again, hold again, laugh or cry with again, the one who will never hold her own children in her arms, who I'll never see fulfil her dream of becoming a midwife, is the girl who melted my heart when she was born nearly 20 years ago.

Third attempt

"Her young life was taken in a senseless, vile act of sexual gratification. I have lost count of the times that I have been told that time is a healer. Believe me, it's not.

"Nothing can take away the gut-wrenching feeling that is there the minute you open your eyes each morning and doesn't go away until you close them again to try and sleep."

Miss Edmonds was last seen getting off a train at Tunbridge Wells railway station, at about 6.25pm on Monday, April 17, 2006.

Police made numerous appeals for information before finding her body in a suitcase near the Morrisons supermarket in Vale Avenue.

Bell was found guilty of the youngster's murder on February 13 at the third attempt, after juries at two previous trials were unable to reach a verdict.

It is thought Bell also sexually assaulted Miss Edmonds while strangling her with a scarf.

Kent Police said the investigation was the force's biggest in years due to the fact there were no witnesses to the crime and no CCTV footage.

The crucial piece of evidence was a blood stain on Bell's hooded top that could only have come from Miss Edmonds, and most likely at the time of her death.

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Roar's comic special

A HOST of well-known faces from CBBC will be seen becoming park keepers for a day in a special Comic Relief version of hit children's TV show Roar.

Filmed at Howletts and Port Lympne Wild Animal Parks, series four begins its runs on BBC Two tomorrow for 25 one-hour long episodes.

And in the Red Nose Day, March 13, special Tracey Beaker star Dani Harmer and wacky TV presenter, Ross Lee, star as zoo keepers.

An online open day

STUDENTS considering continuing their education at Canterbury College can get all the information they need from the comfort of their computer on Wednesday, February 25.

The college says it is the first in the UK to stage an Online Virtual Open Day bringing together the ability to view courses, chat to staff, tour the college, watch videos and apply in special online-only event. For more information visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk.

To see this clip search 'cirque'
@ yourkenttv.co.uk

Theatrical firsts are achieved at the Marlowe Theatre Canterbury in the ice spectacular Cirque de Glace

Ticket machine thefts saw pair pocket £12,000

TWO men have been sentenced for their part in a string of thefts from ticket machines at railway stations that cost the industry £40,000.

Tony Trinder, 29, from Bromley, and Richard Smith, 24, of Southwark, were sentenced at Southwark Crown Court on Thursday after pleading guilty to conspiracy to steal.

Trinder was given a 12-month jail sentence and Smith was sentenced to six months, which was suspended for two years.

The thieves were caught after an investigation by British Transport Police (BTP) into a trail of incidents at eight stations including Orpington, Petts Wood, Elmstead Wood and Chislehurst.

BTP were alerted after a set of ticket vending machine keys were stolen during a burglary at Orpington railway station on Boxing Day in 2007.

Detective Constable Michael Stephenson said: "The keys were used over a period of three months to open cash boxes at several railway stations and more than £12,000 in cash and vital components were stolen.

"The cost to the railways to replace all the locks and cash boxes amounted to more than £25,000."

Aspinall's 'dark side' is revealed

CHANNEL 4 claims to lift the lid on John Aspinall on Monday in a special programme as part of its Toffs and Crims series.

The Real Casino Royale at 9pm on February 23, looks at the man behind two of Kent's best-known tourist attractions Port Lympne and Howletts animal parks, and who lived in a large house within the grounds of his Howletts Park in Bekesbourne.

The show claims the man who made his fortune through gambling allegedly teamed up with shady characters to further line his pockets – claims angrily denied by his family.

Mr Aspinall died in 2000.

VOLUNTEERS will be scouring beaches in Thanet, Shepway and Dover for signs of oiled birds this weekend as part of the RSPB's Beached Bird Survey.

The UK-wide initiative will see around 600 surveyors record the number of washed-up dead birds and their state of oiling. The survey has been running since 1971 to highlight illegal oil spills and reduce seabird deaths.

The findings will be available later in the year.

Change of name sees old favourite become new tourist attraction

RURAL RETREAT: Kent Life has transformed itself from a charity into a business to help stave off the effects of the economic downturn

By STEVE KNIGHT
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

DONKEY rides and pig races will form part of the county's newest tourist attraction when it opens its doors in April.

Kent Life, which for the past 20 years has been known as the Museum of Kent Life, is undergoing a huge transformation to help combat the effects of the recession.

While the Maidstone attraction will continue to showcase animals, buildings and farming materials from the county's past, it will also be increasing its focus on providing a fun family day out.

General manager John Jordan said the transformation of Kent Life from a charity into a business had allowed it to attract investment for the changes.

He said: "These are troubled times for small charities and we had been running as such up until last October.

"To protect ourselves from the current economic crisis we decided to start promoting ourselves more as a visitor attraction.

"When we asked people why they did or did not visit us, one of the main reasons was the use of the word 'museum' in our name. I think a lot of people had an image of stuffed birds in boxes – which isn't the case with us at all.

Passive

"The other reason was that although parents wanted their children to learn about Kent's history, they also wanted them to have fun too.

"We have taken that on board and our new strap line is 'family fun you will remember'."

As part of the renovation, an 18th century barn will become an 18th century play barn and the already popular Victorian tea rooms will be refurbished.

The pig racing will actually be commentary provided when the animals compete to receive their food first, while visitors will also be able to cuddle lambs and learn about the major role shire horses played in Kent's rich farming history.

Mr Jordan said: "Before, when people used to visit us, they would be quite passive as they walked around. But now we want to engage with people and make this a really interactive place to visit.

"We are very conscious that we are launching ourselves in the middle of a recession, which is why we have also lowered our admission prices. But we are actually taking on extra staff and are engrossed with interviews at the moment, which is pretty rare for companies at the moment. We really think this is good news for everyone."

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A&Es do not check if children on 'at risk' list

HOSPITAL trusts have been forced to defend their child protection policies after a new report showed A&E departments do not routinely check if a youngster is at risk of abuse or neglect.

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

The Tories found data they obtained under the Freedom of Information Act revealed that two-thirds of trusts, including those in Kent and Medway, do not check to see whether injured children are subject to protection plans.

Andrew Lansley, the shadow health secretary, said hospitals were getting confusing messages over how to prevent tragedies like the Baby P case happening again.

A spokesman for Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust said: "We check any child where there is a concern about that child's welfare."

The trust's staff had all been trained in child protection issues, he said.

Health Minister Ben Bradshaw said it would be unnecessary to routinely check every child admitted to A&E against the child protection register.

He said the Government had reminded all hospitals of their legal obligations to child protection in the wake of the Baby P case, the boy who died aged 17 months in 2007 Haringey, north London. Baby P died after sustaining major injuries, including a broken back, despite being on the 'at risk' register and being seen by health, social care and police professionals 60 times.

Julie Pearce, director of nursing, midwifery and quality for East Kent Hospitals University NHS Trust, said: "All staff working within A&E, minor injuries units and walk-in centres are trained to contact social services if they have any concerns about a child attending their department.

Identify

"We also have a dedicated team of safeguarding liaison nurses who routinely check all attendance cards of children attending the department. This service has improved communications between all agencies that work with children."

She said A&E staff were given annual updates in child protection training.

A spokeswoman for Medway NHS Foundation Trust said every member of staff in the emergency department had regular child protection training so they are able to identify a child who might be at risk.

She said: "Current systems do not allow us to readily check if a child is under a protection plan upon arrival at the emergency department.

"However, we do routinely check every child where the nature of their injury raises any question whatsoever."

"These checks are carried out with our local health and social care partners. The trust notifies, as a matter of course, the health visitor or school nurse of every child that attends the emergency department – regardless of the reason for their attendance."

The Government said the Healthcare Commission had been asked to do a review of child protection in the NHS following the Baby P case.

Lord Laming, who chaired the 2001 inquiry into the death of eight-year-old Victoria Climbié, is investigating progress on child protection arrangement generally, including joint working between organisations and any action needed to deal with barriers.

Mr Bradshaw said the Government would act on recommendations to strengthen child protection.

The Tories pointed to the independent review of the tragic Baby P case, which exposed serious problems with Haringey's child protection system.

It found hospital staff were confused about checks that should be made when injured children arrive at hospital and that the right procedures were not in place.

The party claimed the figures show these problems are "systematic across the country".

Store closures

A LEADING sports retailer has become the latest victim of the recession.

JJB Sports has announced 438 cuts throughout its footwear chain Qube and fashion retailer OSC after the company failed to find a buyer for the two firms.

The cut will mean eight of Qube's 13 stores will now be closed, including the shop based in Fremlin Walk, Maidstone, and another in Margate. Reports said that both companies had been running at a substantial loss.

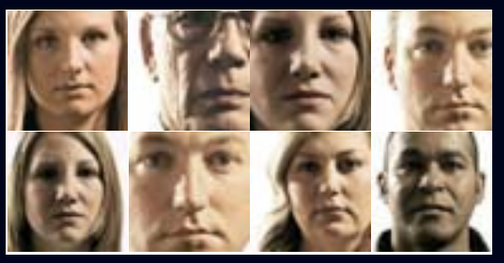
The company is now trying to renegotiate its debt with its banks.

Union fights on

UNEMPLOYED workers will stage a second demonstration outside Grain power station next week to continue their 'British jobs for British workers' fight.

The demonstration will take place between 6.30-9.30am on Tuesday.

The workers' union Unite organised the protest because members are angry at the way French multinational Alstom is handling the construction of a new gas-fired plant at Grain. They feel the firm should have included a clause in its tendering contract that any subcontractor should seek to employ British workers.



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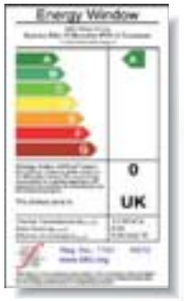

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Garden dispute grew into a fine

HOMEOWNER Rodney March's overgrown gardens have cost him £465 – after Swale council hauled him before the courts.

March, of Teynham, was prosecuted after failing to clear vegetation, despite being served a council notice ordering him to do so.

He also failed to attend a hearing at Sittingbourne Magistrates Court on Monday last week but was found guilty under the Town and Country Act 1990. He was given a £350 fine and ordered to pay £100 costs to Swale council and a £15 victim surcharge.

March was issued with a Section 215 Amenity Notice, which he failed to comply to.

The notice requires land to be tidied where it harms the amenity of the area. There is a maximum fine of £1,000 for non-compliance.

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GG Racing

Thousands of Bonds prizes go unclaimed

By CHRIS MURPHY
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

QUICK, check under the sofa and in those cupboard and drawers you never bother looking in anymore – it could be worth your while in Premium Bonds cash.

Amazingly, the people behind the Bonds say they have a staggering 13,000 unclaimed prizes registered in Kent.

That adds up to an astonishing £756,525 with individual prizes ranging from a modest £5 to a very useful £29,995.

The reason Premium Bond officials can't find the winners is because they have generally moved on, and not bothered to register the change of address.

Another reason includes people actually forgetting Bonds had been bought for them, possibly when they were a child, or even executors being unaware the Bonds are held when someone dies.

Some 37 per cent of people who have lost touch with their savings have moved home and failed to tell all their financial providers their new address. And 50 per cent say they find it difficult to remember all the accounts they have opened over the years.

There is no time limit on claiming prizes and each unclaimed prize is held until the winner can be tracked down. The oldest unclaimed prize dates back to November 1957 for the sum of £25.

Sally Swait, Premium Bond manager at National Savings and Investments said: "Following the expense of Christmas, tracing unclaimed Premium Bonds prizes may prove to be a welcome source of extra money for some. We urge anyone who believes they could have unclaimed prizes to check with us. The easiest way is to use our website and there is no time limit on claiming the prizes."

Nationally, there is around £30 million still unclaimed by 550,000 winners, with the largest amount waiting for collection being £100,000. Around 20 million people in the UK hold the bonds, making them one of the most popular ways of investing in government-backed schemes.

Falling interest rates have almost halved the total prize money available in less than a year. The size of the prize fund is determined by the Bank of England base rate, which has been reduced significantly in just a few months to practically zero.

Kevin Mountford is head of savings at price comparison website Moneysupermarket.com.

He said: "The chances of winning are now so low most investors probably think Premium Bonds are not worth bothering with. The only people they may appeal to are those who fancy no more than a flutter."

However, if you suspect you are one of the lucky winners, go to www.nsandi.com or write to Premium Bonds, National Savings and Investments, Blackpool FY3 9YP.

CASH: One of the unclaimed Premium Bond prizes in the county is worth £29,995

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EXCLUSIVE

By STEVE KNIGHT
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

TAXPAYERS throughout Kent have spent more than £370,000 on other people's funerals over the past five years.

Councils have an obligation to pay for a service when a person dies outside of hospital and there are no friends or family members available or willing to pick up the tab.

Between 2003-04 and 2007-08 there have been about 400 "paupers' funerals" in Kent.

Process

The average cost of such a service nationally is £944, which equates to a total of about £377,600 in this county. KOS Media obtained the figures from 12 of 15 local authorities in the county.

The remaining three – Ashford, Dartford and Thanet – were unable to respond before we went to press.

Paul Edwards, bereavement and registration services manager at Medway Council, explained the paupers' funeral process.

He said: "The coroner will contact us to say they have been unable to locate any friends or family members to arrange a funeral. It's normally for bodies that have washed up in the river or poor old people living alone in rented accommodation somewhere.

"It's a crude way to put it, but I think the purpose of our obligation under the Public Health Act is so bodies aren't left littering the streets."

Despite councils having to pay for the services, they are entitled to claim some of the costs back through any money left by the deceased.

Last month the Local Government Association (LGA) revealed that requests for publicly-funded funerals had gone up nationally since 2003-04, although the figures throughout Kent demonstrate no clear pattern.

However, there have so far been 12 services in Medway during 2008-09 compared to just two in 2007-08.

Mr Edwards said: "There has been a sudden increase, which may be because of the current economic climate and family members not being able to afford to pay for funerals."

With 41 services between April, 2003, and March, 2008, Medway had the second most of any council in our survey. Affluent Sevenoaks had the least with just seven.

But Bromley council was way out in front with 117 between January 2003 and December 2008.

A council spokesman said he was unable to comment on the figures because there were no statistics available as to why they were so high.

A survey by the LGA showed 61 per cent of environmental health officers questioned felt that the national rise in paupers' funerals was because family and friends were unwilling to meet the cost, while 50 per cent put it down to relatives being unable to pay.

David Rogers, chairman of the LGA's community wellbeing board, said: "These tragic figures speak for themselves. People, mostly elderly, are dying around us with no family or friends to care for them. Nobody should end up in that position.

"Everyone should be doing their bit to ensure nobody goes unnoticed. There are simple signs that an elderly person may need help, such as the curtains remaining drawn or newspapers not being removed from letter boxes."

FUNERALS PAID FOR BY TAXPAYERS 2003-2008

All numbers are in order from 2003-04 to 2007-08, apart from Bromley and Shepway which have recorded theirs as individual years from 2003 to 2008.

BOROUGH/DISTRICT					
Canterbury	17	9	9	7	9
Dover	9	9	3	3	3
Gravesham	0	3	3	2	4
Maidstone	4	3	1	2	3
Sevenoaks	1	1	0	3	2
Swale	3	3	1	3	7
Tonbridge	2	1	3	2	2
Tunbridge Wells	3	3	2	2	3
Bexley	4	5	6	7	8
Medway	11	12	11	5	2
2003-2008					
Bromley	16	12	20	20	21 28
Shepway	3	9	7	3 4	6 8

DEATH AND TAXPAYERS: The public foots the bill for paupers' funerals

Choir to sing across the pond

CANTERBURY Cathedral Choir, one of Europe's foremost choral groups, will be visiting the United States for the first time in 10 years.

The singers arrive in Chicago on April 13 and will perform nine concerts across the East Coast and Mid-West America before flying home from Washington DC on April 27.

The choir consists of 12 lay clerks, men who are professional singers but also work locally, and 30 choristers, boys aged 8-13 who attend school in the city and live in the Precincts of the Cathedral.

The visit coincides with the 500th anniversary of the Coronation of King Henry VIII, during whose reign the Canterbury Choir School was established.

Health info fairs

THE NHS and Kent adult social services will both be represented at two information fairs next month.

Volunteers from a number of other groups will also be at the events, which are being held at the Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone, on March 7, and at the Abode Hotel, Canterbury, on March 14.

Admission to the fairs, which will run from 10am-2pm, is free. Call 01622 696343 or 01622 696364 for more information.

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Thief finally caught

A SERIAL burglar has been jailed for two-and-a-half years for his part in a crime-spree.

Brendon Campbell, 25, from Chatham, was finally brought to justice after being arrested and charged with a burglary in Strood.

He later admitted to carrying out a further 19 burglaries across Medway and was convicted last week at Maidstone Crown Court.

Campbell was said to target homes with expensive electronics such as TVs and stereos and valuable cars. It is estimated the value of the stolen cars alone is in the region of £80,000.

In his summing up Judge Griffith-Jones said: "The offences were planned with a team, you being the eldest and by inference, the leader. The affects go far beyond the loss of valuables; it is the violation of a home."

Detective Constable Mike Seager added: "We are pleased with the sentence given and hope that it will act as a deterrent to other would be criminals."

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'Commuters of east Kent are being taken for a ride'

RAIL company Southeastern has come under further fire after it emerged services into London from Kent would be axed when its flagship high-speed line goes live, ***writes Jenna Pudelek***.

The rail company has been facing severe criticism from MPs and passenger groups who are angry that commuters have been facing soaring ticket prices, higher than anywhere in the country, to pay for a service that only 15 per cent of passengers will be able to use.

From December when the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL) High Speed 1 comes into service, journey times from Ashford International to London St Pancras will be slashed by 37 minutes.

But Roger Gale, the Tory MP for Thanet North, said in east Kent the journey to London will take longer than it did by steam train in 1936 – and at a premium fare.

"I challenge Southeastern and the Department for Transport to publish, now, its full December train timetable, to justify the increased cost of its fares over those experienced in other regions that have received similar investment in new rolling stock," he said.

"And to demonstrate how longer journey times and mileage constitutes an 'improvement' and how cutting the non-CTRL 'classic' services offers 'greater choice'. I think that once again the commuters of east Kent are being taken for a ride."

This week also saw the publication of a major new study by the rail watchdog Passenger Focus, which found British commuters, especially in London and the South East, were paying more on rail fares than anywhere else in Europe.

Mr Gale has written to the transport minister Lord Adonis about problems facing constituents and rail passengers across Kent.

He said the fast trains, which will speed to London at 120mph according to Southeastern, will travel at less than 60mph between London and Margate and less than 70mph between London and Canterbury.

The seven trains currently stopping each morning at Margate, Birchington and Herne Bay to Victoria will be cut to two from December and services will also be reduced to Cannon Street and London Bridge.

A Southeastern spokesman said: "In some of the smaller towns, yes, they do get fewer services, but this is counter-balanced against the increase in services elsewhere.

"It is only a high-speed service from Ashford to London St Pancras, from destinations on the Kent coast trains operate on the existing track. We have never pretended it is going to be an option for everybody. But in terms of overall regeneration of east and north Kent this is going to be a popular service."

The Advertising Standards Agency (ASA) said it was investigating seven complaints about accuracy in the relation to Southeastern adverts in the press for its new service.

Southeastern agreed to reinstate carriages on four of the five trains serving peak-time commuters in west Kent that were cut.

Tunde Olatunji, the Kent spokesman for Passenger Focus, said he welcomed the points Mr Gale had raised.

He said: "The core points he's raising is how much faster in real terms is the high-speed service from Thanet, we have not yet done the calculations ourselves and there is a big question mark over whether we will even be getting historic journey times back.

"There is also a question mark over how much passengers will be asked to pay for the high-speed service."

• Kent County Council planners have scooped a national planning accolade for their work on the CTRL at the Royal Town Planning Institute awards.

THE recession could spell an end to years of inflation-busting rail fare increases for Kent passengers.

Commuters in the county faced soaring ticket price hikes of more than 10 per cent this January.

Southeastern's controversial franchise agreement with the Government allows it to increase its regulated fares, such as season tickets, by the July retail price index (RPI), which was 5.3 per cent last year, plus three per cent. Other train companies are only allowed to increase fares annually by the RPI plus one per cent.

However, rail fares are expected to fall next year due to deflation. Analysts have predicted that the July RPI could be minus 2.1 per cent.

A spokesman for Southeastern said: "We have a robust business plan and we are confident we can weather the storm."

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Economics interest rate is rising at universities

By JENNA PUDELEK
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

APPLICATIONS to study economics at a Kent university have soared 61 per cent this year.

The recession and global financial crisis seems to have sparked a renewed interest in the money markets and fiscal studies.

Nationally, there have been a record-breaking number of people wanting to begin a degree this September, with applications up 7.8 per cent.

This trend has been repeated in the county with the University of Kent reporting a huge 19.2 per cent rise in applications, while Canterbury Christ Church University stands to recruit 11 per cent more students.

Steven Holdcroft, head of information, recruitment and admissions at Kent, said: "This is a very positive result for the university. There is only one other institution that has seen a larger than us increase and that's Portsmouth."

He said the soaring number of admissions were part of the university's growth plans and related to its good performance in league tables.

But a closer look at the application figures, show students are making choices that could be put down to the recession.

Mr Holdcroft said: "It is quite interesting. There has been resurgence in some of the science areas, which previously were not doing very well. Maths applications are up 32 per cent, bio science up 29 per cent, fiscal science up 16 per cent and economics up 61 per cent.

"People recognise that the university has very good research and teaching facilities, but also because market conditions have generated more interest in these areas."

He also said it was the affect of government initiatives to encourage more applicants in scientific areas and schools working to promote the sciences and maths.

The weak pound also seems to have boosted applications from overseas students at the 'UK's European university' with a 30 per cent increase reported.

"Given the global impact of the financial crisis we may have expected them to decrease, but it does not appear to be impacting on international students," he said.

Affluent

Post-graduate applicants are up 46 per cent for people from overseas and 45 per cent from UK students, showing people are choosing to add to their skills so that they are better qualified when the economy picks up.

Asked if he thinks it is unusual to see applications soar during a recession, Mr Holdcroft said: "I think it is a double-edged sword – are we are recruiting students from more affluent backgrounds?

"Poorer students may be deterred because of the debt they are going to come out with and asking themselves 'should I go in case I cannot find a job' or 'should I find a job because I cannot face that debt'.

"But at the end of the day it is increasingly people realising that most well-paid jobs these days are looking for graduates. If you have not got a degree you are disadvantaged in the work place."

John Slater, director of student recruitment at Canterbury Christ Church, said this was the third consecutive year the university had outstripped the national picture for applications. He said the university was attracting students from a wider area and putting on additional courses.

The university provides a lot of vocational courses for public sector careers and he said adult nursing was a popular choice this year.

REWARD money being offered for information about a dog killer has risen to £1,100.

Last month a number of bodies were found by walkers in Wouldham Common, Medway, with RSPCA inspectors saying the dogs had been tortured and dumped.

An anonymous person was so sickened by the attacks she offered a £1,000 reward for information.

That figure rose by £100 this week when a second animal-lover came forward.

RSPCA spokesman Klare Kennett said officers were still investigating the killings and appealed for more information.

'England's greatest right-back' in Q&A session for disabled football

WORLD Cup winner George Cohen will be the guest of honour at a charity dinner in Sevenoaks.

The 1966 England right-back, who lives in Tunbridge Wells, will take part in a question and answer session at the event to help support disabled football.

Visitors to the Slug and Lettuce bar in Sevenoaks High Street will also be able to take part in a sports quiz and auction.

Tickets cost £15 and can be purchased by calling the venue on 01732 465058 or Access Sport International on 01732 779811.

Defender Cohen, 69, earned 37 caps in just over three years and was referred to by legendary coach Sir Alf Ramsay as "England's greatest right-back".

GLORY: Cohen (circled)

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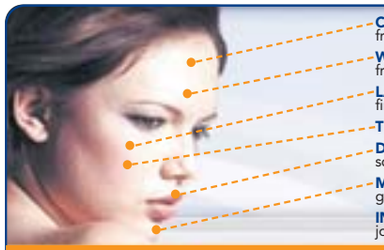

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Badge adding safety to pupils' school trips

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

A SCHEME allowing teachers to organise school trips without getting tangled in red tape has been welcomed in Kent.

The Quality Badge has been awarded to 65 locations throughout the country – including Commonwork organic farm in Sevenoaks – to show they have passed the relevant health and safety requirements.

Announcing the launch of the initiative last week, Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, Ed Balls said he hoped youngsters would be able to go on more exciting trips as a result.

He said: "Tens of thousands of children take part in learning outside the classroom every day. I am determined that no child should miss out on these vital experiences because of unnecessary red tape or because of a cotton-wool culture that discourages all kinds of risk.

Reflection

"Quality Badges offer teachers a guarantee that not only is a venue providing the sort of educational value that they can build on after the visit, but they also have the appropriate risk management structures in place."

Commonwork was the only attraction in Kent to be awarded a Quality Badge, but the Department for Children, Schools and Families was unable to say how many in the county applied for one.

Tory councillor Mark Dance, who has responsibility for school organisation and operation at Kent County Council, said the statistic was no reflection on how safe certain school trip locations in the county were.

He said: "It's very early days so we just need to promote this and encourage other attractions to apply for the badge.

"I think it's a very good idea. I work with a youth advisory group and I have seen first-hand how difficult it can be to arrange outings. It can sometimes take up to six weeks to sort out all the paperwork. This scheme is just a fast-track route and I fully welcome it."

Schools have become increasingly reluctant to organise trips for fear of being sued by parents if their child were to be injured.

The Quality Badge initiative is part of the Government's £4.5 million Out and About package, which provides guidance and information for teachers on how to plan and organise high-quality activities.

Canterbury and Whitstable Tory MP Julian Brazier had been pushing for such a scheme to be introduced in Parliament.

He said: "I had a long-running campaign to reduce the impact of the compensation and health and safety culture on school trips so I'm very happy about this. Nobody wants to see dangerous school trips, but children benefit extraordinarily from outdoor activities with an element of risk, which have sadly been in decline in recent years."

Commonwork education co-ordinator Julia Bracewell said : "We think it's very important that children connect with their local environment and learn where some of their food comes from, as well as experience what goes on at a farm such as ours."

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Saturday, 28th February 2009 – 9am to 5pm
Saturday, 28th March 2009 – 9am to 5pm
Saturday, 25th April 2009 – 9am to 5pm

The King's Mile.com

Give power back to town halls, demands Cameron

By JENNA PUDELEK
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

‘Quangos should go’

THE LEADER of Kent County Council has joined demands for more power to be taken away from regional quangos and devolved to local authorities.

A policy paper published by the Conservatives says the party would strip regional development agencies of their planning and housing powers and give them to local councils.

KCC leader Cllr Paul Carter said: “David Cameron has started the debate about whether there are too many regional quangos determining the future for us. I think there are.

“The whole thing needs pruning and logical common sense to be applied as to what is best determined locally and what decisions need to be collective about strategy and government investment.”

In the dismantling of regional development agencies proposed by the Tories, councils would also set up their own ‘local enterprise partnerships’ to take over economic development functions and funding.

The South East England Development Agency (Seeda), which has an annual budget of around £196 million, covers nine counties with the aim of driving economic growth.

Seeda said that in 2007-08 it helped create or improve 60,000 businesses in the region, which includes Kent, it also created or safeguarded more than 7,500 jobs and helped 12,600 people find a job.

But in a BBC television interview ahead of the green paper’s publication on Tuesday, Mr Cameron said local authorities wanted to come together and take over the role of regional development agencies.

He also called for regional assemblies to be scrapped due to the amount of “regional bureaucracy”.

Accountability

The South East England Regional Assembly (Seera) is made up of representatives from the region’s councils and communities and is responsible for regional planning, housing and transport.

Plans to disband regional assemblies by 2010 and pass their responsibilities to unelected regional development bodies have already been published by the Government.

Cllr Carter said: “I believe in devolution and in strong local government and elected democracies. I am not a lover of quangos that are not accountable to the electorate.

“An agenda whereby as much money, economic development and support for businesses should be given to empower elected local governments at district and county level – I think that is where David Cameron is coming from.”

But Cllr Carter recognised the need for some form of “regional determination”. He said: “People have an aversion to the word ‘regional’ but it would be foolish to think transport infrastructure can be decided in isolation, you have to live in the real world.”

Cllr Carter added: “When you are looking at aviation capacity strategy, rail infrastructure and Highways Agency network strategy, you need to sit round the table with local knowledge and help the Government make the right big decision.”

A spokesman for Seeda said the business-led organisation already worked closely with councils: “We work constructively with elected representatives of all political parties at all levels to achieve the best results for the people of the South East.”

Firefighters tackle carbon

KENT Fire and Rescue Service has pledged to reduce its carbon emissions after signing up to a climate change declaration.

The Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change allows local authorities to promise to become more environmentally sustainable. An action plan must now been developed within two years and firefighters said targets would be set in relation to energy, fuel, and water consumption.

Bryan Cope, chairman of the Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority, joined KFRS’s chief fire officer Bill Feeley to sign the pledge on Thursday.

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'We need more dementia care'

By JENNA PUDELEK
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

Plans for new Admiral Nurses still not enough, says charity

PEOPLE who care for loved ones with dementia are set to benefit from a further eight specialist nurses this year.

But with an estimated 22,000 people across the county suffering from dementia, there still will not be enough, a spokeswoman for the charity For Dementia, said.

The charity provides Admiral Nurses, who are trained to help the carer of someone with dementia.

Their specialised work hit the headlines this week after the former newsreader John Suchet spoke out about what it is like caring for his wife, Bonnie, who has dementia, and the invaluable support he gets from his Admiral Nurse, Ian.

In Kent, there are currently five of the nurses working with families and carers of people with a form of the debilitating condition.

Jon Parsons, associate director for older people's mental health in east Kent for Kent and Medway Social Care NHS Partnership Trust, said the trust was recruiting an additional eight of the nurses to work across the county.

Nationally there are only 60 Admiral Nurses working.

Jacqui Wharrad, a spokeswoman at For Dementia, said: "We have been very successful in getting funding in Kent and Medway.

"Kent is lucky but the numbers are huge… and there are still not enough. The Government's national dementia strategy [published this month] says there should be a dementia advisor for every person that is not going to happen overnight.

"It is good in Kent. We are already doing what the Government wants us to do but we want more. If you are going to provide quality support for all these people with this disease, we are going to need more and more nurses and resources."

In the UK there are 700,000 people with dementia, which is an umbrella term and covers Alzheimer's disease, vascular dementia and rarer forms, and this figure is expected to increase to 1.7 million by 2050.

Speaking about his nurse this week, Mr Suchet said: "I pour my heart out to him. He encourages, advises, and most important of all, keeps telling me not to feel guilty.

"Guilt, the natural condition of the carer, for wanting to run away, wanting to have fun, wanting to form relationships, wanting to do this and that, and resenting the fact that you can't.

"I have tried, and failed, to untangle my emotions. Ian has explained to me that I am in mourning; I am going through bereavement… for someone still living."

The much-loved author Terry Pratchett has also spoken publicly about dementia after he was diagnosed in 2007 with a rare form of Alzheimer's, which he famously described as an "embuggerance".

Ms Wharrad said putting dementia into the spotlight was helpful, she said: "John Suchet has done a lot of good for people in his position.

"He is making people understand that you are losing someone you love and you need support as well and that is what our nurses are there for."

She added: "The number of nurses is nowhere near the number of people with dementia. There is a big mismatch between what is needed and what is out there."

CARER AND PATIENT: Ex-newsreader John Suchet (left) is caring for his wife, and author Terry Pratchett has Alzheimer's

Walpole Bay Hotel & Living Museum

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By STEVE KNIGHT
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

Cracks showing in row over pavement repairs

ELDERLY people are more at risk of falling over on Kent's damaged pavements than in most other regions in the South East.

Figures released by the Audit Commission reveal more than a quarter of the county's paths are in need of repair, compared to just four per cent in West Berkshire and Reading.

Kent is seventh in a league table of 19 regions, with Bracknell Forest and Windsor and Maidenhead top with 49 per cent of pavements requiring maintenance.

Help the Aged spokesman Pamela Holmes called on local authorities to spend more on repairs to help reduce the number of deaths caused by falls.

She said: "These figures show that broken and damaged pavements still represent a significant problem for older people with mobility problems.

"Our research suggested that councils are caught in a vicious circle. They are required to sit on large sums of money to cover legal fees and compensation, but are cash-strapped when it comes to repairing pavements that may cause falls in the first place.

"It is vital councils invest more money in keeping public walkways safe, as falls are a leading cause of death for over-75s and at the very least, one fall can shatter an older person's physical and mental well-being."

In Kent there are a total of about 12.6 million square metres of pavement, which is equivalent to about 2,500 football pitches. In 2006, about 10.5 per cent of that figure – or 250 pitches – were in need of attention.

Kim Hills, head of community operations at Kent Highway Services, said the paths awaiting repair were damaged because they were heavily used by the public.

She added: "Kent County Council carries out an annual assessment of half of its network. Data from the 2008 survey has yet to be processed. This will be used to determine the programme of work for 2010-11.

"Over the last two years, additional funds have been targeted to pavements. In 2008-09 KCC spent £5.6 million on improvement schemes at 69 locations. The budget proposal for 2009-10 is for £3m on pavement improvement schemes involving a further 69 locations.

"In addition to this, all pavements are regularly inspected and any hazards found are scheduled for repair. Keeping pavements safe is important for everyone."

The Audit Commission figures were highlighted by the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy.

Spokeswoman, Lynn Sutcliffe, said: "Once an older person has fallen, it can seriously affect their physical and emotional well-being.

"If local authorities act sooner rather than later to fix the pavements that need repair, many unnecessary falls could be avoided."

DANGER: Authorities are being called upon to make the county's pavements safe

Facebook campaign for safe riverside

TRAGIC: Sonny Singh Pataria

AN ONLINE campaign has been launched to have higher railings installed along the River Medway – following the death of teenager Sonny Singh Pataria, 18.

The 'Get Higher Railings For Medway River 4 Sonny P RIP' group has been set up on social networking site Facebook.

It has already been backed by more than 1,600 people. The group's founder called on Medway residents to support her campaign, saying higher railings could save lives.

Writing on the group's page, Rachel Smith wrote: "The River Medway needs higher railings to save people like our poor Sonny P. Let's take action in saving more lives."

The campaign has been backed by the friends and family of Chris Lawless and Terry Reynolds – who both lost their lives in the river during the past two years.

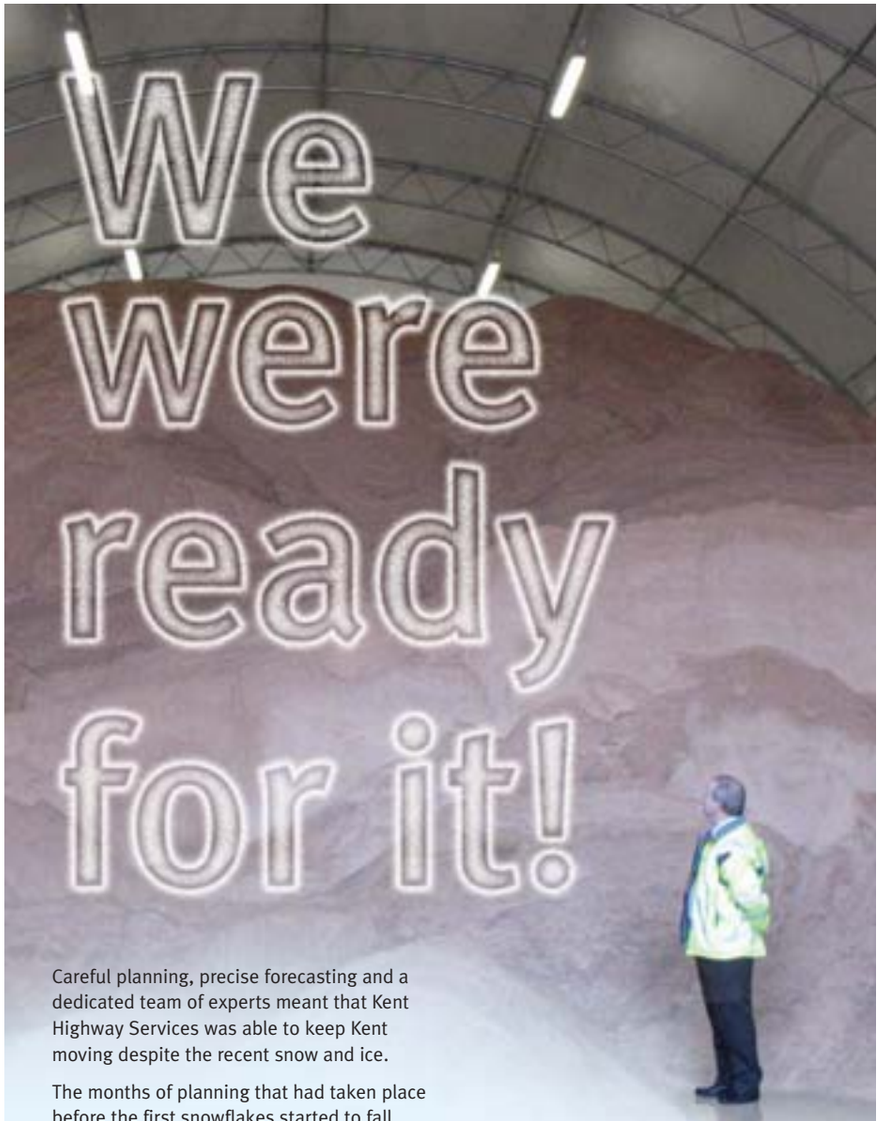
Sonny's body was recovered from the River Medway near Gun Wharf, Chatham, on Wednesday, February 11, after being spotted by a member of the public. It is not known how, where and when the former New Brompton College pupil entered the river.

Sonny's death has prompted an outpouring of grief from friends and former classmates, who have placed flowers and messages on the river front where his body was found.

Improving travelling in Kent

Your one-stop guide to information and advice on travelling

Kent County Council



Careful planning, precise forecasting and a dedicated team of experts meant that Kent Highway Services was able to keep Kent moving despite the recent snow and ice.

The months of planning that had taken place before the first snowflakes started to fall enabled the 'ice-busters' to respond quickly and efficiently.

The process began before the winter had even started, when more than 20,000 tonnes of salt was ordered and stored throughout Kent in preparation for the severe weather. By keeping a close eye on weather conditions and analysing data from the 14 weather stations to get a weather forecast dedicated to Kent's roads, we knew exactly which roads to salt, how much salt would be needed, and when to take action.

The 53 salting crews then worked throughout the night to keep the main roads safe and passable. The salting runs cover about a third of the county's road network, over 1500 miles.

By thinking ahead, we were able to stockpile enough salt to maintain the roads if the cold spell had persisted. The teams were even able to salt some pathways to help pedestrians who braved the weather.

And it wasn't just a busy time for the salting teams. The number of calls to our Contact Centre from the public increased five-fold, with people reporting hazards or requesting specific information. The Contact Centre was able to mobilise additional staff to manage the enquiries and provide relevant information.

Now that the snow has cleared, we are being pro-active by restocking our salt supplies and providing an additional 15 crews to repair the frost damage caused by the cold weather.

Improving our service with technology

At Kent Highway Services, we know that finding innovative ways of delivering our service is crucial for us to be able to improve and provide better value for money at the same time.

That innovation often comes in the form of technology, which allows us to be more efficient and spend your money more effectively. New technology has had a major impact on the way we deliver our service when it comes to carrying out technical inspections, especially those of trees and the carriageway surface.

Many of the inspections we carry out are now recorded directly onto an electronic tablet, which then automatically downloads information to a central database. Our inspectors can use the same device to order any necessary repair work, allowing them to reduce the amount of paperwork and make better use of their time.

We also now use vehicle-mounted electronic scanners to record the condition of the highway, meaning that we can plan future major carriageway repair schemes more effectively. The scanners also collect video information that can be viewed by office-based engineers. This means that queries can often be resolved quickly without the need for an inspector to take time making a special journey to check the site.

You can find more about the way we work online at www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Travel Update

Kent Highway Services

Below are roadworks and events that may cause some disruptions. Please remember that these are planned works and other emergency works may be required.

Thanet

Start	Finish	Road	Reason
Current	6.3.09	A28 Canterbury Road & Marine Terrace, Margate	Temporary traffic lights – footpath works

Ashford

Start	Finish	Road	Reason
23.2.09	25.2.09	A20 Hythe Road, Smeeth	Temporary traffic lights – tree works

Tunbridge Wells

Start	Finish	Road	Reason
23.2.09	26.2.09	Speldhurst Road, Langton Green	Temporary traffic lights – drainage works

Gravesham

Start	Finish	Road	Reason
23.2.09	27.2.09	Peacock Street, Gravesend	Road closure – carriageway works

Tonbridge & Malling

Start	Finish	Road	Reason
23.2.09	2.3.09	Carpenters Lane, Hadlow	Road closure – sewer mains works

Dartford

Start	Finish	Road	Reason
23.2.09	13.3.09	Market Place, Dartford	Delays expected – water mains works

For details of other roadworks in Kent please visit www.kent.gov.uk/travel

See www.KentTV.com for up-to-date travel information

For more information, please call 08458 247 800 or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

WIN some truly hot breakfast kit

WE ALL know breakfast is the most important meal of the day – but we don't always make time for it, especially in the winter.

However, Kenwood, the kitchen appliance expert, wants to make it easier by giving five KOS Media readers a new Kenwood Response toaster and a month's supply of tasty Warburtons bread.

This 21st century appliance has auto rise and fall, so no more pushing down the handle. You can monitor the stages of toasting too. The variable width slot means you can toast anything and you can also use the keep-warm feature, ensuring your toast is always hot. On top of all this, there's a bun warmer to heat muffins or pastries too.

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KENWOOD

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To be in with a chance of winning just answer the question below. Please send your entries to: KOS Media Breakfast Competition, c/o Clarion Communications, The Griffin Building, 83 Clerkenwell Road, London EC1R 5AR, or email kwelsh@clarioncomms.co.uk with KOS Media Breakfast Competition in the subject field.

The closing date is March 6, 2009.

Question: What is the name of the Kenwood toaster in this competition? A) Response B) React C) Retreat

For our full terms and conditions see www.kentnews.co.uk or call 01303 817073.

If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.

Friends of Scally's son set up freedom protest online

AN ONLINE campaign has been launched to free the jailed son of Gillingham FC chairman Paul Scally.

The Free Max Scally group has been set up by the incarcerated 18-year-old's brother, Jay, on social networking site Facebook.

More than 300 members have shown their support to the teenager, who was convicted last month of causing grievous bodily harm by breaking a 15-year-old's jaw at an end-of-term party in 2007.

Members have also left comments on the group's message board promising to write to Max and condemning the two-year sentence.

One poster wrote: "Max don't deserve it at all but have to be strong for him I guess."

Another added: "All the best mate."

Max's brother also wrote: "I just got back from visiting him, he sends his love to everyone."

Max Scally was sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court on Monday, January 26.

The court heard how the 18-year-old attacked his victim at a house party held to mark the end of the academic year in July 2007, hitting him in the face before stamping on him as he lay on the floor.

The injured boy – who cannot be named for legal reasons – needed two metal plates to re-align his jaw, which was broken in two places.

The pair had clashed two months prior to the party as the victim was dating one of Scally's ex-girlfirends.

A jury found Scally, of Farningham, guilty of causing grievous bodily harm. He had already been cleared of a more serious charge of causing grievous bodily harm with intent.

Judge Andrew Patience branded Scally "a thug and a coward" and sentenced him to two years imprisonment in a young offenders' institution.

Paul Scally was in the public gallery when the sentence was handed out.

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Homes and Gardens

12 page pullout starts on page 35

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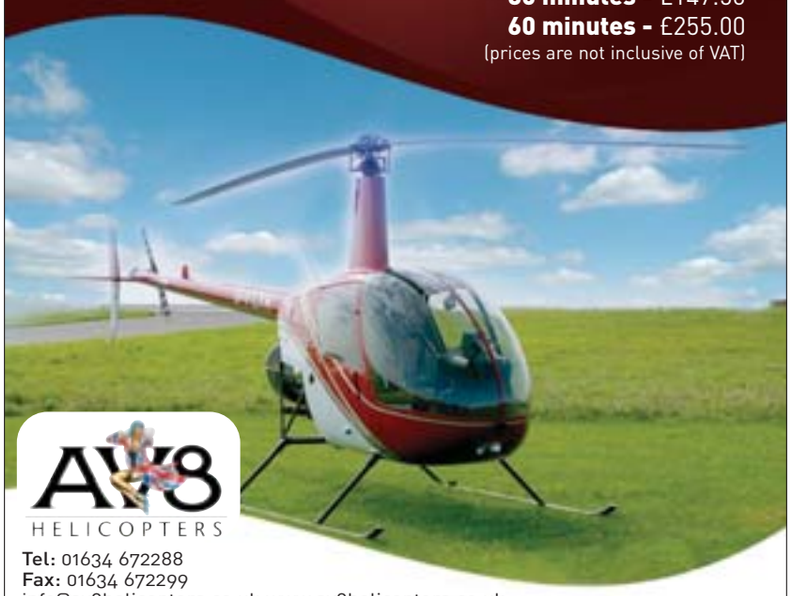

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www.canterburyecohomes.co.uk

Funding to help save memorial

A BOOST of £4,710 has been given to fund repairs to an Ashford war memorial.

English Heritage said the funding would go towards repairing the wooden frame and replacing the roof with new oak shingles at Kenn-ington war memorial shelter.

However, Chris Morley, of the Kennington Community Forum, which has been raising funds to repair the vulnerable memorial, said more money was still needed: "If something is not done soon then the frame would decay and the cost of replacing it would be expensive."

Mr Morley said the forum received a grant from Kent County Council of £2,000 towards repairs and the English Heritage funding would bring the community two thirds of the way to restoring the memorial to people from Kennington killed in World War Two.

English Heritage and the Wolfson Foundation announced 12 grants had been given across the country to help save war memorials.

Hart to be honoured

A LASTING tribute to the much-loved television artist Tony Hart is to be created in the town of his birth.

The Vision On presenter, who died on January 18, was born in Maidstone in 1925 and will be remembered with a plaque at the Hazlitt Arts Centre.

Cllr Brian Moss, the borough council's cabinet member for leisure and culture, said: "Tony Hart was born in Hastings Road and the arts centre is a fitting venue in which to commemorate him. Perhaps this is a tradition we could continue in other appropriate cases."

The announcement comes after a campaign on Facebook, Maidstone Would like a Statue or Memorial of Maidstonian Tony Hart, was set up.

Cold case officers in hunt for missing dad

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

THE family of a man who went missing 16 years ago have repeated their appeals for help in tracking him down.

Kent Police this week reopened the case of Gravesend man Karl Hotchkiss, who has not been seen since April 11, 1993, and who left a three-year-old son behind.

Better known as Bert, Mr Hotchkiss' disappearance at the age of 23 left his family devastated.

Sister Kelly, also from Gravesend, said: "We just miss him and want to find out what happened over these last 16 years.

"We would appeal to anyone who has any information that could help the police to call them."

Mr Hotchkiss was last seen in Gravesend pubs the Old Manor Shades and the Station Inn – now The Manor and Bar 24 respectively – wearing baggy black tracksuit bottoms and green-and-black trainers.

He lived and worked in the town and was physically fit in appearance, having been a boxer when he was younger.

He was 5ft 5in and had blue eyes, short brown spiked hair and various scars and tattoos on his body.

Mr Hotchkiss' son, also called Karl, is now 19 and said still finds it difficult to come to terms with his father's disappearance.

He said: "I am absolutely devastated about my dad because I have grown up without any memory of him and I have no idea what happened to him when he went missing all those years ago."

The investigation into Mr Hotchkiss' whereabouts has been reopened by Kent Police's cold case team, which is based in Chatham and is part of the force's major crime department.

Its role is to investigate unsolved murders, rapes and sex attacks, as well as long-standing missing person inquiries.

Det Chief Insp Dave Withers said: "We are keen to find out what happened to Karl back in 1993.

"He disappeared without a trace. By appealing for information, we hope to solve what happened and bring closure for Karl's family. We urge people to contact us – anonymously if necessary."

DCI Withers would not reveal why this case in particular had been reopened.

Anyone with information can call the cold case team on 01634 843048 or Kent CrimeStoppers, in confidence, on 0800 555111.

GONE: Karl Hotchkiss vanished in 1993

The cold case team was set up last April and secured its first conviction four months later when 45-year-old Kelvin Bennett was found guilty of the abduction and repeated rape of a Folkestone woman in December, 2000.

Advances in DNA technology allowed police to track down the former customs officer when he provided a sample for an unrelated offence, he is now serving 12 years in prison.

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Fairtrade fashion show on campus

STUDENTS from Canterbury Christ Church University are inviting members of the public to a free Fairtrade Fashion Show.

The event takes place on Wednesday, February 25, at 7.30pm in the university's Anselm Hall on its campus on North Holmes Road.

The show marks Fairtrade Fortnight and will see students take to the catwalk to model Fairtrade dresses, trousers and tops donated by Oxfam and Siesta.

Oumarou Gadjere, a visiting Fairtrade cotton farmer from Cameroon, will talk at the event.

Catch up on this years new releases

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KENT ON SUNDAY Kent's Saturday Observer

Call for crackdown on 'nighthawkers' who plunder heritage sites

'History is being stolen'

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

A STUDY into the illegal use of metal detectors to steal historical artefacts has found Kent is one of the most targeted counties in the UK.

The English Heritage report says 11 sites in the county have been plundered since 1995, placing Kent seventh in a table of 'nighthawking' hotspots.

However, it adds that the figure could have been much higher were it not for the effective work of the police in tackling the problem.

Dr Mike Heyworth, director of the Council for British Archaeology, said: "Nighthawkers are stealing our history.

"Once the artefacts are removed from the ground and sold, the valuable knowledge they contain is lost forever.

"The heritage sector needs to work together with the law enforcement agencies to combat this criminal activity."

Nighthawking is the search and removal of antiquities from the ground using metal detectors without the permission of the landowners, or on prohibited sites such as scheduled monuments.

Only 26 cases nationally have resulted in formal legal action, but the report says many people are getting away with theft because of the reluctance of others to report what they consider to be a minor crime.

Kent Police is singled out for praise in the study, which says other forces should follow its lead by giving officers special training and working more closely with archaeological groups and metal detector clubs.

ILLEGAL: 'Nighthawkers' use metal detectors to uncover and steal artefacts from sites of historical importance

Chief Insp Mark Harrison of Kent Police said: "We can and will deal with heritage crime but we cannot do this in isolation.

"We need help and assistance from the other agencies, metal detectors and landowners.

"In tackling this form of criminal behaviour, there are clear lessons to be learned from how the police and partner agencies have devised systems and processes to tackle wildlife crime.

"We will be working with heritage organisations to provide clear guidance and training to the police, Crown Prosecution Service and magistrates on the impact of nighthawking, how to combat it, the kinds and level of evidence needed, and the possible penalties."

In June last year, 39-year-old Mark Staples was given a three-year conditional discharge after pleading guilty to stealing Roman artefacts from archaeologically important sites throughout Kent.

The train guard from Swanley was arrested after two illegal excavations at Thurnham Castle near Maidstone, and Richborough Roman Fort at Sandwich. He had also previously stolen artefacts from an excavation in Chilham, near Canterbury.

Prof Sir Barry Cunliffe, interim chairman of English Heritage, explained the reasons behind the report.

He said: "Nighthawkers, by hoarding the finds or selling them on without recording or provenance, are thieves of valuable archaeological knowledge that belongs to us all.

"Even in the case when the finds are retrieved, the context of how and where exactly they were found has been lost, significantly diminishing their historical value.

"In the cases of internationally important material, the loss of the unique evidence these objects provide on our common history and origins is especially poignant.

"By painting a clearer picture of the crime, this survey will help us to combat it more effectively."

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Veteran cricketer a big pull at quiz

KENT bowler Martin Saggers will swap the crease for the pump this weekend when he takes on the pub landlord role at The Saggers Arms quiz night.

The event at the Millennium Suite, Charlton Athletic FC, on Sunday, February 22, is part of the Kent County Cricket Club veteran's benefit year and will feature celebrities, a three-course meal, auction and raffle.

On February 26, there will be the London City Dinner which includes a celebrity sports forum starring former England football captain Ray Wilkins MBE, Olympic gold medallist Daley Thompson CBE, and bowler Devon Malcolm.

For more details about events being held throughout the year go to www.saggersbenefit2009.co.uk.

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Takeover bid could save 350 ferry jobs

By **MARIJKE COX**
neil.clements@kosmedia.co.uk

NEW Dover-Calais operator LD Lines could help save hundreds of jobs at troubled ferry firm SeaFrance.

Reports suggest the newest ferry operator at Dover port has made a bid to take over the struggling firm and secure at least 350 of the jobs that could be slashed in Calais if a recovery plan goes ahead.

SeaFrance announced on Tuesday that 650 jobs may be cut to survive the recession.

LD Lines began its passenger and freight services to Boulogne and Dieppe last week and a second ship is being added from Wednesday, July 1.

Managing director Christophe Santini told the BBC: "I cannot divulge any information on the transaction itself, but we are talking about taking over SeaFrance. The global group would keep the name of SeaFrance and we would be committed to preserving its vessels under the French flag."

According to reports, no response has been given by SeaFrance or owner SNCF.

Bosses at the firm have stressed its restructuring plans are yet to be confirmed and Dover would have "very few" cuts if the proposals went ahead. Calais, however, would be hit with more than 600 job losses.

The restructuring plans were put forward by the SeaFrance board of directors to SNCF on Monday.

Following the discussions, a spokesman for the ferry group said: "SeaFrance is faced with an unprecedented situation exacerbated by the steep fall in the cross-Channel freight market.

"Faced with a difficult financial situation, the company is proposing the steps essential to secure its long-term future."

The restructuring plan put forward by the company would involve "significant" changes and takes into account the current situation of SeaFrance and the medium-term forecast of cross-Channel traffic.

The spokesman said: "Several measures are envisaged in the plan, notably the downsizing of the SeaFrance fleet to align it with the market and to reduce costs."

As a consequence of restructuring, seagoing and shore-based staff could be affected.

According to media reports, the company made a loss of 20 million euros (£17.5 million) in 2007, while the loss for 2008 was expected to be slightly more.

LD Lines' arrival at the port has already created a number of new jobs for Dover.

Some 20 posts have been taken up, the majority by SpeedFerries staff who lost their jobs when that firm went into administration in November last year.

An extra 80 jobs will become available in July when the second ship joins the company and foot passenger check-in facilities are established.

Spokesman Nick Stevens said: "There is a demand for a route to Boulogne, as seen with SpeedFerries, which previously ran that service. After they went into administration, LD Lines recognised the need to get the route up and running again, so brought forward the launch from July to February.

"And with the Dover to Dieppe route, this is the first time the English port has had links with Normandy."

Mr Santini said he was thrilled to bring these services to the public and freight businesses, adding: "This immediately proposes a new travel opportunity for the 700,000 passengers a year using the previous service."

Two return sailings a day are available between Dover and Boulogne, with a crossing time of one hour and 45 minutes.

One round trip a day will operate between Dover and Dieppe with a crossing time of four hours and 15 minutes.

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High-tech lesson for tiny minds

HOME TAUGHT: Nicole Taylor gave her two-year-old son Mark lessons on how to use a computer

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

A MOTHER who taught her two-year-old child how to use a computer has written a book explaining how she managed it.

Nicole Taylor, 37, from Rochester, decided to teach some basic skills to son Mark, now four, when she noticed how fascinated he was with the shapes and colours provided by certain programmes.

Despite not having started school yet, the youngster can already type his name on a keyboard and even knows how to scroll through his father's mobile telephone.

Miss Taylor said: "Mark had shown an interest in technological things from the age of about one-and-a-half, as when we put DVDs on he would always want to place it in the machine and know what button to press.

Difficulties

"We sometimes tend to underestimate the capabilities of toddlers. Even very young children have receptive minds and a natural capacity for learning.

"They can absorb new skills very quickly, particularly when they are having fun.

"With my background in adult education, I was intrigued to observe the ways that a child learns, just by watching Mark's progress. He seemed to soak up any new action as I showed him."

Miss Taylor had already co-written a book about teaching IT skills to adults with learning difficulties when she decided to pen her second work.

PCs for Peewees offers advice on how to introduce children to computers and also suggests learning games and gives step-by-step instructions for parents who may not be computer-literate themselves.

Miss Taylor said: "Technology today is developing really quickly and it's a lot easier to get to grips with it at a young age.

"Teaching Mark how to use the computer encourages that kind of development and I'm sure he'll be very capable when he's older.

"I decided to write the book because I think it is easy to become lost searching for information, so it's easier to be able to pick up a reference book that does it for you.

"With a relaxed approach, teaching computer skills becomes a rewarding experience for adult and child."

PCs for Peewees is available from Amazon and can be ordered from most major bookstores, priced £9.80. Visit www.generationtech.info for more information.

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'Boris Island' is not a flight of fancy says top engineer

THE senior engineer behind Hong Kong's island airport claims Boris Johnson's Thames Estuary airport plan would be easy to deliver, ***writes Nick Ames***.

Douglas Oakervee, who is carrying out a feasibility study for the London mayor, said it would be "relatively straightforward" to build a new airport. He said he was "encouraged" that the project – dubbed Boris Island – had a future.

However, it has received cross-party criticism locally and also been branded a non-starter by environmentalists who say it would be a disaster for bird life.

Former London mayor Ken Livingstone called the £40 billion project "mad".

And David Cameron said Boris Island was not a Conservative Party policy on the BBC Politics Show on last Sunday.

The Tory leader said: "Boris is totally within his rights to have a look at this idea, but I don't think it's really much of a prospect."

But Mr Johnson seems determined to press on regardless, commissioning the feasibility study, which is due at the end of March.

City Hall sources claimed they have already been approached by Chinese investors to find out about putting money into the project.

The airport, seen as an alternative to Heathrow expansion, would have terminals on the Kent and Essex coasts to keep the reclamation area as small as possible, and would be serviced by a high-speed rail link.

Mr Oakervee said: "The investigation so far shows this site would be easier from an engineering perspective than other airports such as Hong Kong. The ground conditions are better."

He added: "There are technical issues to be addressed, but I see no overwhelming obstacle."

Labour MP Nick Raynsford, chairman of the cross-party parliamentary group on the proposal, said: "This will give the prospect of meeting airport capacity for south east England in the most environmentally responsible way."

Mr Johnson, who has led opposition to the third runway at Heathrow, said: "A new airport in the Thames Estuary has to be factored in as an option for London's long-term aviation needs."

He added he felt the large numbers of birds inhabiting the area would not be at risk from aircraft, and that the impact on local people would be "virtually non-existent" – as the site was offshore so they would only hear a "dim noise from planes taking off".

PLANS: Boris Johnson

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Lovers were embracing as pushchair carrying toddlers was blown into the sea

How dad's secret tryst with mistress ended in tragedy

By **SIMON ROBINSON**
simon.robinson@kosmedia.co.uk

THE father of the toddler who died after falling into the sea off Folkestone was kissing his mistress when the child's buggy was blown over the edge, it has emerged.

National newspapers reported that Andrew Hopper, from Chatham, told police he had been taking the work colleague out for a walk at Warren Point with his two-year-old daughter Rebecca and eight-month-old son Lewis last Sunday.

It was while the couple were embracing that a gust of wind blew the double-buggy with the children strapped in over the edge of the coastal path, 15ft into the freezing water below, according to reports.

Despite the best efforts of the father and his lover who, along with passers-by, dived into the sea in a bid to save the children, Rebecca was pronounced dead two hours later. She had been airlifted to the Royal London Hospital after receiving emergency treatment at the scene.

Lewis, who was treated for hypothermia, was discharged from the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford on Wednesday.

Police have since confirmed Mr Hopper let go of the buggy's handles as he turned to kiss his companion when the wind pushed the buggy over the edge.

A police spokeswoman said the news story was "accurate" as told to them by Mr Hopper and that investigations were ongoing.

She said: "We are treating this as a tragic incident. We are speaking to everybody involved, including a number of people who came to the scene to help and are getting a case ready for the coroner's court."

Mr Hopper and his wife Sarah issued a statement earlier this week paying tribute to their daughter: "Rebecca was our sweet, gorgeous little girl. She was a special little girl with a special place in all our hearts. She will be sorely missed by everyone who knew her. We love her so much and she will be in our hearts forever.

"We would like to thank the London Hospital for all their efforts to save our little girl and the William Harvey Hospital staff for all their help and support for Lewis, who is coming along really well."

An inquest into Rebecca's death is expected to be opened and adjourned next week.

News updated daily online
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GRIEF STRICKEN: Rebecca Hopper's parents paid tribute to their 'sweet girl'

Go ahead for riverside statue

AFTER a three-year wait an interactive steel structure will light up Maidstone's skyline from the banks of the River Medway.

The 18.5 metre tall Maidstone Marker has been commissioned as part of the public art project Elemental, which aims to regenerate and celebrate Maidstone's riverside.

The three-dimensional towering structure uses interactive, low-wattage LED lighting which measures wind speed.

The Markers' interactive lighting scheme will create an ever-changing visual effect for passers-by at all times of day.

In response to the 'elements and forces of nature' theme, the Maidstone Marker uses the one of the five elements of nature – metal.

The new addition to the county town will be sited at the St Peters riverbank between the town centre bridges.

It has taken three years to finally bring the structure to life, since its artist Rob Olins was picked as the winner in a national open competition.

The Elemental Steering Group, whose members include a number of Kent-based organisations including the University for the Creative Arts and The Maidstone Trust, placed Mr Olins on the short list for the 2006 competition.

Members of the public were then asked to vote for their favourite artwork. The Maidstone Marker has cost £63,000, which has been entirely funded by the Channel Corridor Partnership.

The structure is expected to be installed on Thursday, February 26, and the lighting scheme will be fitted in time for the official opening by the Mayor of Maidstone, Denise Joy, on March 5, at about 4pm.

Greyhounds a great pet

A CAMPAIGN has been launched to encourage dog lovers in Kent to have retired greyhounds as pets.

Cheryl Miller, manager of the Croftview branch of the Retired Greyhound Trust near Meopham, said the animals made loving pets.

She said: "Sadly, many people overlook retired greyhounds because they're perceived to be the lively boisterous athletes they were on the track."

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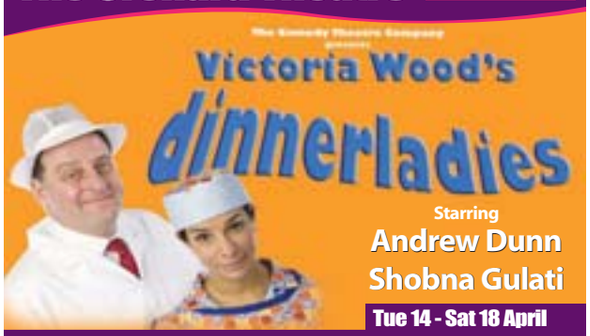

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Exhibition going for gold

Display celebrates Medway towns' rich sporting heritage

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

THE RICH history of sport in Kent and Medway is celebrated in a new exhibition ahead of the London Olympics in 2012.

Sport for All: Going for Gold in Medway is running at the Guildhall Museum in Rochester until the end of next month and features a combination of quirky objects as well as interactive features.

Curator Peter Boreham said: "The exhibition highlights key aspects of Medway's rich sporting heritage and showcases the outstanding sporting achievements of some of Medway's most talented sportsmen and women who are 'going for gold' in their chosen sports.

"The 2008 Beijing Olympics, the forthcoming 2010 Modern Pentathlon World Cup event to be held in Gillingham, and the long-awaited 2012 Olympic Games in London have given local athletes and sports enthusiasts an exciting focus for the present and future."

Since the exhibition opened last September to mark the official launch of the Cultural Olympiad, Mr Boreham said that tens of thousands of people had already visited the museum.

"We have received some really exciting written feedback from visitors of all ages," he said.

"The Medway 2012 film screened in the gallery and the winner's podium feature have been especially popular with our young visitors."

On the winner's podium visitors get the chance to be an Olympic medallist and see their image projected onto a large plasma screen.

Unusual must-see artefacts at the exhibition include a pair of 100-year-old shorts worn by the 'Running Bishop'.

They were worn by Christopher Maude Chavasse, the Rochester prelate who ran in the 1908 London Games.

Britain's oldest known surviving gymslip, which was designed so that young women could play sports such as netball and hockey at school and dates from around 1910, is among the items on display.

Mr Boreham told how the game of netball itself was born in Kent by the sporting groundbreaker Madame Bergman Osterberg at the Dartford College of Physical Education.

During the 1890s she pioneered physical education and taught hundreds of young women to be sports teachers and the Kent school was where netball was recognised as a sport.

Madame Osterberg worked tirelessly to change attitudes surrounding women and physical activity.

For football fanatics there is a half-size replica of the FA cup which was won by Medway club the Royal Engineers in the 1875 finals.

SPORT SHOWCASE: (left) Photographs, objects and costumes relating to the history of swimming in Medway. The History of Cycling (above), includes a state-of-the-art bike inspired by the Tour de France that passed through Kent

Also on show is a state-of-the-art racing bike inspired by the 2007 Tour de France, which passed through Kent, and is the same model owned by veteran Dartford rocker Mick Jagger.

Two short-films are also being shown highlighting Medway's involvement with sport and the 2012 Games alongside a 230-year-old cricket bat made in Sevenoaks, showcasing the county's involvement in sport both past and present.

Kit and uniforms worn by former Medway Olympians and other local sporting heroes are on display as well as the histories of popular sports such as football, cricket, swimming and cycling.

The local football scene and the history of Gillingham FC is looked at, and past glory such as when the club's first and only league championship came in 1963-64 when the Gills were promoted to Division Three.

The museum is at the river end of Rochester High Street and is open from Tuesday to Sunday 10am-4.30pm. The exhibition runs until March 29.

News and sport updated daily online
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BROADVIEW

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Director named

KENT County Council has named its new managing director of children, families and education services.

Rosalind Turner, who starts in May, is currently director for children and young people at Suffolk County Council, where she leads a team of 2,500 staff and has overall responsibility for 10,000 staff in Suffolk's 356 schools.

KCC leader Cllr Paul Carter said: "Her experience will help us deliver a number of aims and aspirations in Kent from delivering the biggest Building Schools for the Future programme to our trailblazing 14-24 vocational scheme."

Ms Turner said: "Kent represents a huge challenge, but I am determined to bring all my experience to bear for the benefit of its children, young people and families."

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Howard's taking on the extremists

DARING: Former model Sandra Howard's third novel covers some controversial themes

By STEVE KNIGHT
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

SIXTIES fashion icon Sandra Howard admits she may be opening up a religious can of worms with the release of her third novel.

The wife of Folkestone and Hythe Tory MP Michael Howard says she put in many hours of research before writing A Matter of Loyalty, which is a love story-cum-thriller about a Muslim reporter who finds himself caught up with terrorists in his home town.

Speaking to KOS Media, Mrs Howard, 68, said she did not know if the novel would prove to be controversial.

She added: "It poses various questions as to why some Muslims are drawn into the extremist way of thinking. It's not having a go at the Koran but it does question some of the more jihad aspects of it.

"I've had some wonderful help from Muslim friends in writing the novel, and one of the characters is the Home Secretary so I was also able to draw on Michael's experiences of working in that role.

"It's been fantastic to write but I don't know what reaction it will provoke. It's always a nervy time just before a novel is due to come out, but I feel very close to this one and am proud of what I have written."

Born as Sandra Paul, Mrs Howard was one of the leading fashion models of the 60s and one who befriended the likes of former American President John F Kennedy and legendary crooner Frank Sinatra.

Married three times before settling down with former Tory leader Michael in 1975, Mrs Howard said it had always been a dream to be a writer.

She said: "I'd never taken any creative writing classes but I had done some freelance work for various publications and I knew a little about the world of newspapers.

"I once wrote a light-hearted piece for The Spectator and it was then that a literary agent contacted me and asked if I had ever thought of writing a novel. I'm afraid that compliment went straight to my head, so it's what I've been doing ever since.

"I had a terrific time modelling and it gave me some wonderful opportunities in my life, but you can't go on forever and I'm more than happy to be a full-time novelist now."

Mrs Howard's first novel, Glass Houses, received positive reviews when it was published in 2006, as did the 2007 follow-up Ursula's Story.

She is now already busy writing her fourth.

Mrs Howard explained: "My main obsession at the moment is trying to keep Michael out of the house. He's been known to creep in and disturb me when I'm working, so I have to get rid of him. But when neither of us is busy, we always talk about what sort of day we've had. I think that's one of the secrets of a happy relationship."

When asked what else she would like to achieve in her life, Mrs Howard replied: "I just want to carry on with what I'm doing. I have so much to be thankful for and I'm just enjoying each day as it comes."

• A Matter of Loyalty is published by Simon and Schuster on March 2, priced £12.99.

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The Marlowe Academy

IN LAST week's Education for Kent supplement we mistakenly placed the Marlowe Academy in Folkestone. It is actually in Ramsgate. We apologise for any confusion caused.

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AID: Euan Eddie, inset, is visiting Burkina Faso to find out how WaterAid funding is spent

Water of life

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

A ROTARIAN has travelled to one of the world's poorest countries with a charity that helps ensure people have access to clean water.

Euan Eddie, who lives in Chatham, is Rotary International's next district governor for Kent and East Sussex and aims to raise at least £30,000 for WaterAid projects in Burkina Faso, west Africa.

The 64-year-old flew out to the country's capital Ouagadougou on Thursday, where he was set to visit some of the urban slums before travelling west to meet communities in a rural area in the Balé province.

"I chose WaterAid because in my view water is fundamental," he said. "If water and sanitation provision is good then you can build other community benefits on it such as education and healthcare."

Mr Eddie, who before he retired was a director of Clubs for Young People, for which he was recognised with an OBE in 2005, said he was looking forward to the trip.

He said: "It is part of the world I've never been to before and I am expecting the move from a developed country to almost a Third World country will be a culture shock."

One of his first visits will be for lunch with Simon Kafando, district governor of the Rotary Club in Ouagadougou, before heading to one of the WaterAid projects where the money his 2,500 Rotarians raise will be sent.

"It is very important to be able to say 'help me raise the money and this is where it will go. I was there, these are the conditions and your money will help these people'," he said.

WaterAid said it had helped more than 37,000 people in Burkina Faso gain access to safe water and more than 32,000 residents access to sanitation since it began work there in 2000. The charity said life expectancy in the country is 51.4 years. More than five million people still do not have access to safe water, and more than 12 million do not have a hygienic place to go to the toilet.

Mr Eddie will experience day-to-day life without access to clean water during his journey, before visiting WaterAid projects and discovering the difference access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene education can make. He said he was looking forward to visiting families, schools and talking with officials to get a real insight into how the charity has helped thousands change their lives.

On his return on Tuesday he will throw himself into fund-raising efforts.

"No-one in Kent really knows poverty, so I am challenging them at one of the Rotary meetings to instead of having the traditional three-course meal to have a basic meal such as a bowl of soup or cheese and bread," he said. "We will charge people the usual amount (around £12), pay the caterers and send the rest to the charity.

"There is no new money involved. I feel in a time of recession that it is good no-one is going to spend anything they wouldn't already be spending."

He added that Rotarians would be bringing their husbands, wives or partners as well as people from local communities to the dinner, who instead of getting a free meal as guests would be asked to pay for the meal so the money could go to WaterAid.

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KENT ON SUNDAY

COMMENT

One bill we can't do much to cut

LARGE water bill increases are another kick in the teeth for families already struggling to make ends meet.

Whereas people can choose to buy cheaper food or clothing to combat the recession, their hands are tied when it comes to how much they are charged for washing and drinking.

While the money the companies make is being spent on maintaining and improving services, it is also being used to prepare for the new homes due to be built in Kent.

As county council leader Paul Carter says, it seems unfair that existing residents should be asked to pay more because the current water network is unable to support such a massive building project. Such measures only serve to punish hard-working citizens and make them even more disheartened.

Cllr Carter has urged Kent's five water companies to work together more closely in the future so such steep increases can be avoided, but only time will tell if they do.

Until then we will all have to put up with the larger bills and cope as best we can.

A tragic trend

THE number of "paupers' funerals" is on the increase across the country, with areas of Kent also experiencing a surge in demand.

Like most of the problems facing the UK at the moment, the recession has been blamed for this tragic trend. The fact some people cannot even afford to bury their loved ones is a poignant footnote to the current recession.

OPINION: Challenges faced by Thanet

Peter Gilroy says KCC is tackling the problems around children's homes

I WAS puzzled by last week's opinion piece by Cllr Wells and surprised at the personal attacks on my commitment to the challenges in Thanet.

However, rather than respond to some of the personalised comments I would like to focus on the facts and the serious public policy issues that impact on Thanet and north east Kent's ability to regenerate itself.

Over the last 25 years local government, both within Kent, London and around the country, the health service, probation and prison authorities have been placing vulnerable adults and children who are in local authority care into coastal areas of Kent.

During the 1980s two factors came together: the closure of large psychiatric hospitals in the Greater London area and the economic decline faced by seaside hotels due to the reduction in tourism in the UK.

As hoteliers looked for additional income they switched to catering for disadvantaged people and the concentration of private children's homes and independent fostering agencies in a small area of Thanet created an explosion of social issues.

As director of social services until 2005 and chair of the Kent Child Protection Committee I recognised this as one of the most intractable challenges we faced.

In the late 1990s KCC also had to manage unprecedented arrivals of unaccompanied children and asylum seeking adults – at its peak 1,000 adults a month and 2,500 unaccompanied children from across the world a month being looked after by KCC.

In 2004 I commissioned the Thanet Inquiry to draw together all these issues and develop a way forward for the area. I received tremendous support in this. The report revealed what was needed was a national shift of public policy – so vulnerable children would be looked after as near to their own homes as possible and local authorities would take responsibility for their own.

We agreed with Thanet District Council that we would discourage private sector development of children's homes and hostels through the planning process.

To make the case for a change in policy we held meetings with senior civil servants, ministers and MPs. I also communicated with the social service directors of 150 local authorities across England, including London.

The outcome was a change in guidance which advised there should be a 20-mile limit from any placing authority, it was a positive shift. There were few other sanctions left to us as officers except to lobby colleagues with the support of the Local Government Association. We continue to rigorously pursue this.

Last summer I examined the district policies on homelessness and visited a number of facilities. I found it necessary to become personally involved once again in the problem of Cliftonville. I wrote to all chief executives and chief officers across Kent and convened an urgent meeting, which included the leaders of TDC and KCC, to express my concern about placement policies of all agencies, including those within the Kent boundary but particularly from inner and outer London, into the Thanet area.

The outcome of this will mean placement of vulnerable people in the Thanet area from outside the district will cease and facilities within Thanet will improve.

Some further positive outcomes are that the number of residential children's homes has reduced from 34 to18 and there is a much more rigorous approach taken towards placing, and better evaluation of independent fostering agencies. However, although the numbers of looked-after children has not increased globally, they have not reduced because, as Cllr Wells states, there has been an increase in private fostering agencies in the area.

Much as I have wanted to change this, my power as a chief executive is limited in this area.

This in the end is about politics and public policy. It is for the politicians to get the law changed relating to the placing of vulnerable adults and children in areas of deprivation. This goes to the heart of social exclusion. If we are truly committed to transforming north east Kent then the people who can make real change happen are our elected representatives – nationally and locally.

I will continue to be unapologetic about fighting this cause with the support of colleagues across local government in Kent.

• ***Peter Gilroy is chief executive of Kent County Council.***

We need MMR choice

Re: 'Parents must give children MMR' in last week's paper. If the NHS is so concerned about the increase in the number of measles cases why not give parents the option of MMR or three separate injections?

I always thought doctors put the welfare of their patients first rather than some dictation from Downing Street.

PJE Pepper
Ramsgate

Roads need to be slow

How I envy those such as James Mason (Letters, February 15) and his generation, cruising in their cars, probably listening to the icons of rock 'n' roll on roads which weren't clogged with traffic as they now are.

I drive but I'm not a boy racer.

I value life, especially my own, but speed is why so many young guys have lost their lives, or ended up in a wheelchair.

So yes, I may only be 18 but I welcome lower speed limits in congested areas.

Rob Watkins
Highsted

Police must back down

Kent Police should be told it's time to cease trying to wriggle out of responsibility for the death of Rachel Cheesewright, but who will tell them?

Politicians love them for their ability to provide armed guards for numerous important people, etc, and the use of the word authority by the KPA is a misnomer.

B Appleby
Broadstairs

We need crime fighters

I'm sure, given a choice, most ordinary and sensible Kent coppers would prefer to be doing 'proper' policing.

But under the politically-correct dominance of New Labour, the Home Office has succumbed to the demands of various looney organisations, minority-interest groups and the deranged Health and Safety Executive to alter policing policy.

The present management of Kent police has eagerly embraced this political interference and consequently is more concerned with social inclusion than combating crime.

So I was hardly surprised to read in last week's paper that Kent police were proudly boasting about being the most proactive force for celebrating diversity and handling 'hate' crime in the country.

Nor was I amazed, as once I might have been, by the fact Kent Constabulary have a 'diversity co-ordinator'.

How much taxpayers' money is wasted on that office?

At the risk, which I happily embrace, of offending those of the Hysterical Tendency, I would say it is not the role of the police to ask children to write essays on any subject on which, not unnaturally, they have yet to acquire an adult perspective.

Nor should the police concentrate on 'hate' crime but on all crime which is hateful to those who suffer it.

Whenever I hear a police car's siren I guess it's not on its way to apprehend a granny-basher – which is not a 'hate' crime in New Kent Constabulary's perverse little book – but to a primary school to sanctimoniously arrest a five-year-old for calling his pal a sissy for crying over a cut knee.

Gerry O'Donnell
Ramsgate

Join Pothole Watch, today

I invite your excellent paper to encourage a sense of public spirit in Kent.

A few weeks ago my car's two front tyres had to be replaced prematurely thanks to potholes in the area.

As a result of this costly experience I invite drivers, cyclists and motorcyclists to form a Kent pothole watch.

When we citizens of Kent see/experience potholes in the making we should, as a matter of urgency, phone KCC roads department on 0845 824 7800 and report the road defects.

State you are a member of Pothole Watch and that you'll phone again within a week of it not being mended.

KCC should realise that wrecked tyres cost us money.

Ivan Armstrong
Meopham

Give us the vote on EU

MPs are elected to protect our culture, our freedom and our way of life, yet over the years various governments and all parties have sold our country to Europe.

We have not had one referendum on the Single European Act 1985, Maastricht Treaty 1992, Amsterdam Treaty 1997, Nice Treaty, nor the EU Constitution (Lisbon Treaty).

This is no democracy, which is the will of the people. This is dictatorship.

Give us the right to vote on these very important matters which will erase all we British have fought for over hundreds of years and restore democracy to our country once again.

MPs are elected to listen to the voice of the people, which unfortunately doesn't happen. It is not too late to allow a referendum on the EU Constitution, which in effect binds all the above treaties into one.

TW Foley
Orpington

It's just a white horse

The selectors have studied the form of the limited and disappointing field and put their shirt on Mark Wallinger's racehorse.

They have chosen the entry that captures headlines and will entice the curious to view this extraordinary structure.

The marketing men, eager to sell train tickets and houses, may think that's enough to declare this a winner.

But this is not a private piece of art. Some of us must live with it.

The project was first proposed as a 'landmark' that would represent the area.

The white horse is a potent and appropriate symbol in Kent and across much of southern England. So why am I not cheering?

Its scale is startling, but its stance is static. This may be a new translation of an ancient symbol, but it seems detached from any elements that inspired it.

It offers few tangible resonances with the physical landscape in which it will stand, or

Letters continued on page 34

YOUR LETTERS

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For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday on 01303 817150

BIRTHS

AIT MANSOUR
Abdelkarim and Alexandra Ait Mansour are pleased to announce the birth of their son Bassou Youssef Ait Mansour born on 31st January 2009 in Maidstone.

BOWDEN
Nina and James celebrate the birth of their beautiful daughter Rain Meggy Rose Bowden on 6th February 2009 weighing in at 6lb 12oz.

BRAY
Ben and Marina of Whitstable proudly announce the safe arrival of their beautiful daughter, Layla Grace Bray, on 16th February 2009. A new baby sister for Declan and Missy.

CRAY
Philip and Simone are pleased to announce the birth of Alisha Yvonne Georgina Cray.

DOWLING
Matthew Brown and Alison Dowling of Whitstable proudly announce the birth of their son, Joshua John, on 25th January 2009.Joshua was born at 17.34 weighing 5lb 13oz.

FAIRBROTHER
Vicky Huxley and Mark Fairbrother celebrate the birth of their beautiful daughter Gracie Mae Fairbrother on 17th January 2009.

FOSTER
Dave and Lauren of Whitstable proudly announce the birth of their son, Jacob Philip Foster. Jacob was born on 5th February at 9.22am and weighed 7lb 1oz.

FROST
Paul and Kirsty of Aylesham are proud to announce the birth of their son, Harry, on 10th February 2009. Harry was born at 14.42 and weighed 8Lb. A new brother for Kelis.

GILLAM
Daniel and Julie are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful little Princess Daniella Marie on 27th January weighing 7lb 3oz.

GOLDEN
Kacey born on 30th January 2009, weighing 6lbs 9 oz. Daughter to Cassandra Hawthorne and Steven Golden in Ramsgate.

HAMBELTON
Kathy and Mark Hambelton of Manston celebrate the birth of their son Jake Alexander Hambelton on 9th February 2009.

HODGES
Catherine, Mark and Natalya are pleased to announce the arrival of Beatrice Rose to the Hodges family.

JEFFERIS
Stewart and Michelle celebrate the birth of their daughter Maddison Olivia Jefferis on 29th January 2009, weighing 6lb 10oz.

KUMRU
Ahmed and Iman from Canterbury would like to announce their first sons birth on 23rd January 2009. Abdullah Mahmud Kumru was born at Kent and Canterbury Hospital weighing 2.93kg.

MASCARENHAS
Matthew and Kelly of Herne Bay are absolutely delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Kassya Elizabeth Belle, who arrived safely on 23rd January 2009 at 9.19am weighing 7lb. A new baby sister for Mattie and Sam.

MULHALL
Helen and Sean of Birchington are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful baby daughter Layla Mae Phoenix, born on 12 February 2009 at QEQM.

OXLEY
James Richard born on 6th February 2009, weighing 7lb 11oz. Son to Stephen and Melanie and brother to Matthew and Daniel.

TEYN
Leah born on 8th February 2009,weighing 6lbs.3oz. Daughter to Lisa and Stuart in Margate.Mummy and Daddys special little angel.

TOMPSETT
Charlie Louise Tompsett born on 10th February 2009, weighing 8lb 6oz. Daughter to Jodie Tompsett and Paul Allen in Maidstone Kent.

WALTERS
Jason and Hannah celebrate the birth of their son Joshua John on 8th February 2009 weighing 7lb 8oz.

WHITE
Rob and Jo from Herne Bay would like to welcome "Honey Louise" who was born on 3rd February 2009 weighing 7lb 14 oz. A much loved little sister for Joshua, Jessica and Harley.

WILLIAMSON-FRASER
Alicia Mae born on the 7th February 2009, weighing 6lbs 9ozs. Daughter to Tim and Abi of Folkestone. You are the miracle who we will love and treasure foerever.

WINCHESTER
Lisa and Paul Winchester are proud to announce the arrival of their beautiful twins Ethan and Isabel Winchester born on 5th February 2009.

YOUNG
Aaron and Anna of Ramsgate celebrate the birth of their daughter Mya Jo on 4th February 2009. Mummy and Daddys special little angel.

DEATHS

BOSWELL
June Boswell died peacefully on February 11th 2009 aged 69. Beloved wife to Kevin, mother to Alan, Roger, Ann, George and Susan. Funeral service to be held at Vinters Park Crematorium on 23rd February 2009 at 10.15 am.

EDWARDS
Pauline Edwards of Bearsted passed away peacefully on the 8th February 2009. Funeral on Friday 27th February at Holy Cross Church Bearsted at 1.45pm. No flowers by request donations to Doves Funeral Directors.

GUTHRIE
Harold William of New Barn passed away on the 11th February 2009 Funeral Service to be at Grove Park Crematorium at 10am on 26th February.

HARRISON
Vera Harrison formerly of the Ministry of Agriculture died suddenly on 31st January at Maidstone Hospital. Cremation at Vinters Park on 6th March at 11.45. Enquiries to Clarkes of Snodland.

HAWLEY
John of Stowting - formerly of Sheffield. Passed away suddenly at home on Wednesday 8th February aged 52 years. Dearly loved husband of Pippa and adored and proud father to Charlie and Juliet. Funeral service to take place at St Mary's Church, Stowting on Wednedsday , 25 February at 3.00pm. Flowers or donations to MacMillan Nurses c/o Chittendens Funeral Services, Windmill Street, Hythe, Kent.

MAY
Violet May, 11th December 1914 - 8th February 2009, made her final journey from Canterbury.

MILLIS
Herbert (Bert) of Canterbury and formerly of Wigmore passed away on 12th February. Funeral service at Barham Crematorium at 4.00 pm on Wednesday 25th February.

POWELL
It is with great regret that I announce the sudden death of Eddie who died on 15th February 2009 in Canterbury Hospital. Any enquiries please contact J Dilnot Smith and Son, Undertakers, Deal on 01304 380914

TONG
William Tong (Bill) of Ash,passed away peacefully at home on 15th February 2009.Funeral service at Barham Crematorium at 9.20am on 24th February.Sadly missed and much loved by all his family.

TOTTMAN
Ruth Helen Joyce Tottman of Canterbury died peacefully after a short illness on 13th February 2009. Mum - you were an angel on earth and may God bless and guide you on this journey that we all make when time calls. A much loved mum to Ian, Dave, Janet and families. The funeral will be held on Friday 27th February at Barham Crematorium at 2.40pm. Flowers to go to C. W Lyons, 70 Military Road, Canterbury.

WAINWRIGHT
Henry Wainwright, DFC, and well known Tonbridge artist passed away peacefully on Tuesday 17th February 2009.He will be very sadly missed by his wife Olive, his daughter Debbie and his son-in-law Mark. A natural funeral is to be attended by close family members.Cards and tributes to his wife. No flowers please. Donations to Hospice in the Weald.

Letters continued from page 33

the area's deep and varied history, or any spirit of community.

The Angel of the North is expressive and assertive and has recognisable roots in proud local traditions of fortitude and industry.

Our neutered steed stands inscrutable. Build a meticulously realistic, if amplified, reproduction of a horse, and that's what most people will see – what Mark Wallinger himself described as a simple horse in a field. That is not good enough.

We are told it could take a couple of years to raise the funds. Do they know the total cost?

Time enough for a rethink and an open competition to see if a better proposal can be found

Derek Parris
Greenhithe

Winds of green change

I am keen to install a wind turbine on my house in Birchington. I wonder what other residents in Thanet think?

Several of my neighbours are equally as keen for such a project.

If I stand at my front door and look left, I see the wind farm at Whitstable. If I look right I see the proposed area, north of Margate, where an even bigger wind farm is intended.

We here in Birchington are ideally situated on the north Kent coast.

Turbines on our roofs may initially look unusual, but our forefathers had to come to terms with chimney pots on our houses and homes. As a child I remember the strangeness of television aerials. Now our eyes and minds find such technology almost acceptable.

I am slowly seeking planning permission for such turbines from the local council but the Government and manufacturers have yet to agree on an "acceptable noise level".

I am equally keen for the National Grid to accept excess electricity from the turbines.

Such a development will be a wonderful inheritance for our children and even our grandchildren.

Once the turbine, under the shadow of my solar panels, has been successfully installed, residents of Thanet will be welcome to visit, discuss, meditate and enjoy the view.

Chris Powell,
Birchington

Sea level will rise soon

The underlying message from CPRE when they detail the risk to Kent from flooding due to sea level rise remains, don't worry too much, its not for 100 years (sea levels are predicted to rise by one metre over the next century).

All well and good, but this normally refers to average global sea level, primarily due to the melting of the Greenland ice sheets, then thermal expansion, Antarctic and other meltwater. But, perhaps the risk is far more immediate.

Relatively recent work by Professor Detlef Stammer of Hamburg University shows that same average increase, however it takes the common sense view that as with a river, the meltwater needs to flow away from its origin.

Considering the huge global distances, along with the choke point of the Barents Sea, the meltwater will certainly have a greater impact locally. On global terms we are local.

Perhaps we should be planning for a one meter increase in decades, multiple metres by the turn of the century. Or more appropriately put, the initial impact will be felt by most of us alive now.

Simon Mallett
Lenham

Better late than never

Conservative councillor Chris Wells' comments regarding the dangerous mix of looked-after children and vulnerable adults in Cliftonville made through your opinion column last week should have come as a surprise to me as the fellow local member for Margate and Cliftonville, but for imminent electorial reasons they didn't.

After four long years of making exactly the same argument Cllr Wells outlined last week, at the highest levels and virtually on my own at County Hall, I was, however, pleased to read that at long last he finally agrees with my repeatedly voiced concerns on these issues.

Long before Cllr Wells started to represent the area concerned, I was one of the three district ward councillors who originally called for action resulting in the Thanet Inquiry report, and this despite fierce opposition from the Conservative leader at Thanet District Council.

I have also consistantly called for KCC to widen their enquiry to include vulnerable adults placed in Margate and Cliftonville. It would have been nice to have had some support from Cllr Wells in this regard during his time as a cabinet member at KCC.

Now, with his former role as a Cabinet member terminated and with the county elections on the horizon, he apparently feels free to cynically chastise the chief executive at KCC and furthermore, attempts to jump out of his constrained silence and on to a supposed bandwagon for electorial gain.

The problematic social mix in Margate and Cliftonville is something genuine frontline councillors deal with each and every day, but the issue certainly doesn't need fanning just before each and every election.

Cllr Clive Hart
KCC Member for Margate and Cliftonville

Clearer labels please

British meat is the finest in the world, produced to high standards of quality control and animal welfare.

Yet locally reared meat products on our supermarket shelves can still be labelled as British even if they are reared abroad and processed in the UK.

Not only is this misleading to consumers, it is also wholly unfair to our farmers who are at a disadvantage to producers who may not have such scruplous standards.

The Conservative Party has announced that it will change the law to ensure only products which are reared here can be labelled as British.

Meanwhile, the Government has said it needs clearer labelling laws at a European level before it can take action.

While we will campaign for clearer country of origin labelling at an EU level, I see no reason why giving clearer information to consumers would spark a trade row. It is time the Government stopped dithering and changed this unfair law.

Richard Ashworth
Conservative MEP for Kent

We need to act now

I was amazed at the out pouring against Clive Aslet's views on Manston as I for one agree wholeheartedly with him on this issue.

Mr Andrews' suggestion that airport expansion offers a "glimmer of hope for our children's future" is particularly worrying.

Climate change is the biggest threat to our collective future we (and our children) face.

Expanding airports, and, therefore, increasing emissions from planes, is complete madness. The climate change effect of emissions from planes is up to four times more than from cars and power stations.

There can be no increase in flying if we are to stop runaway climate change, indeed there has to be significantly less.

Our children do need a glimmer of hope, but destroying our climate will not give them that.

In a separate letter, Mr Medwell attacks the suggestion of civil disobedience to stop the expansions.

Non-violent civil disobedience may well be the last line of defence against expansion – let us hope it does not come to that.

However, Al Gore has asked why children everywhere are not protesting in the streets over the need to stop carbon emissions, and remember Gandhi and Rosa Parks changed the world with their civil disobedience. Sometimes it is necessary.

Stuart Jeffery
Campaigns Officer
Kent Green Party
Maidstone

Put meetings online

The people of Thanet were again excluded from seeing how their representatives spoke and voted on a critical issue last week.

Just as on China Gateway, the public galleries were full, and many people who wanted to see what was happening were prevented from doing so.

To assist Northwood residents who could not be present I posted a detailed live report to my blog via my Blackberry.

This has now been read by hundreds of people and has been overwhelmingly favourably received.

I had to do this because Thanet council has refused my request for meetings to be broadcast live via the internet.

Kent County Council, for example, does this as do many other modern local authorities.

It was embarrassing that Cllrs Tomlinson,

Letters continued on page 47

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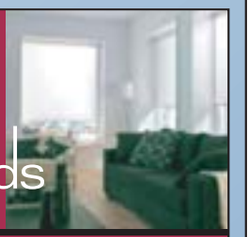

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Plan a colourful summer

Picking annuals for a bright, cheery garden all season long

By **JANE JEWITT**

I WANT masses of colour in my garden this summer, so I have decided to sow annuals. I have to admit that although I sow seeds every year, I tend to choose perennials, or something a little quirky.

But this year I want wall-to-wall colour. Annuals are easy, and I have chosen some of the most common ones. I am full of confidence.

Stocks are very quick; Malcolmia maritima will flower in just four weeks if I am lucky. They make pretty white, pink and lilac flowers to line the edge of a path or border. I will add Clarkia 'Confetti Mix' and light blue Delphiniums at the back of the border. I like to group flowers of a similar shape, habit and colour.

I will grow Ipomea again this year, an annual climber related to bindweed. There should be some seedlings from last year's flowers that I will move to the base of a conifer and provide them with wires to scramble up. The dark conifer foliage will make a perfect backdrop for the beautiful velvety flowers.

I have an island bed planted with shrubs, and this summer the shrubs will disappear beneath a haze of Cosmos and Centaurea. I will add hollyhocks in the centre and dark purple Heliotrope 'Cherry Pie' around the edge of the bed to cover up the bare legs of the taller plants.

EASY: Annuals such as California poppy (left) and cornflower (above) are simple plants to add lots of colour to your garden

Centaurea cyanus, the bright blue annual cornflower starts flowering in June. In July the Cosmos will start to give me large cheery daisy flowers in shades of white, pink and wine, and will bloom until the first frosts.

Once the cornflowers start to diminish I will have late-flowering Rudbeckia 'Goldsturm' daisy flowers in rich golds and oranges, they will look luscious in the soft autumn sunshine.

I hope that the need for staking will be minimal, and that they will support one another as they grow but I will put some birch and hazel twigs in while the plants are small as they will help to keep the cats off the newly cultivated beds.

To fill in between early flowering shrubs I will plant Eschscholzia and Godetia. They both have velvety flowers of similar shape; the Godetia is a little frilly and tends towards salmon, going well with the classic orange of the Californian poppy. They are again both very easy to grow, and once you introduce Eschscholzia, you will always have it, and it will always be a joy.

For fragrance I will plant Reseda odorata. It is a modest little plant, growing only six to nine inches tall with dull yellow-brown flowers but it has a most exquisite and powerful scent.

Once they are established, there are only two jobs left to do. Watering in the evening during dry spells, and dead-heading to prolong flowering. Surely dead-heading is one of the simplest and best of all gardening jobs.

• ***To contact Jane Jewitt telephone 01732 882711 or email janejewitt@tiscali.co.uk.***

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Get fruity in your garden

By HANNAH STEPHENSON

AS the winter gloom persists, it's a welcome escape to think ahead to summer and the possibility of growing delicious, juicy red fruits which are a taste of warmer weather.

I caught up with Gardeners' World presenter Carol Klein, who was contemplating the ingredients to make the perfect summer pudding, most of which will grow happily in cooler gardens.

"Raspberries, blueberries and other easy-to-grow fruits such as redcurrants will combine beautifully and are easy to grow," she said.

Carol, whose new book is Grow Your Own Fruit, believes we are more hesitant about growing fruit than veg.

"The majority of veg grow over one season – there aren't many perennial veg – and it's a one-off thing. People get worried that fruit might be difficult to maintain.

"But raspberries, for instance, are among the most versatile fruits – they freeze well and make the most wonderful jam and the great thing about them is that you don't need a really sunny place. They will crop in a bit of dappled shade because they are basically a woodland plant."

You don't need a lot of space as you can grow them in a row, up wires, or make a little hedge at the back of your vegetable garden or herbaceous border.

"Scottish raspberries are always the best varieties," she says, so go for types including Glen Moy and Glen Ample.

"With autumn-fruiters, chop them right down to the base in really early spring and they'll come back year after year."

Other fruits that are easy to grow and make great additions to summer puddings include blackberries, blueberries, redcurrants and strawberries.

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EASY PICKINGS: Gardeners' World presenter Carol Klein, says growing fruit is simple

"Strawberries will spread hugely so are easy to propagate by taking the runners and dipping them into little pots of compost. When you've done that, take them away to make a fresh strawberry bed.

"Put them round your flowers if you don't have enough room elsewhere and they'll make good ground cover and you'll get a lot of fruit that way, but keep suckers to a minimum once you've grown on what you want."

If you are a beginner to gardening and can only grow one ingredient for your dessert, grow a blackcurrant bush, says Carol.

"It's completely straightforward, will fruit prolifically and will just get better and better. The maintenance is simple. Every few years you just take out a third of the oldest wood and that's it."

You can even grow a bush in a big half-barrel container, she says, provided you don't use proprietary multi-purpose compost. You'd need a loam-based compost because the plant will be there a long time and you need really rich soil.

Like gooseberries and redcurrants, blackcurrants tolerate a wide range of soil conditions but prefer well-drained, moisture-retentive soil.

They prefer full sun but will tolerate light shade. Avoid frost pockets, as frost can drastically reduce yields.

"One bush should yield about 4.5kg (10lb) of fruit," says Carol. "In small gardens they can be grown in containers."

Bare-root blackcurrants should be planted in late autumn, while containerised plants can go in at any time of year, as long as the soil is not too wet.

If you decide to go for blueberries, they require a moist, acid soil, can be grown in pots of loam-based ericaceous compost and also provide an ornamental feature thanks to their warm autumn colours.

"I just want people to have a go. Just grow a little row of raspberries or just a few strawberries, which are cheap enough but will repay you 100 times over," she says.

• ***Grow Your Own Fruit, by Carol Klein, is published by Mitchell Beazley, priced £16.99.***

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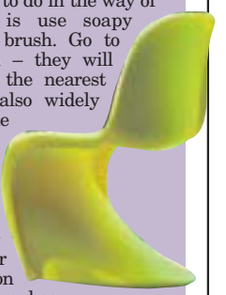
Interior designer, Helle Hylleberg answers readers' design dilemmas

Q I have just moved into a brand new flat with a south-facing balcony. The rail is clear glass and the doors leading to the balcony are glass. My style of furniture is modern – what kind of outdoor furniture would you suggest?

J Watson, Sandgate

A Sounds like you need some quite strong colours. The chair featured is a Verner Panton classic chair. It is very comfortable and it makes a statement.

All you have to do in the way of maintenance is use soapy water and a brush. Go to www.vitra.com – they will direct you to the nearest dealer. It is also widely available on the net, and retails at about £158. Alternatively, if you are on a budget look for similar style/colours on the net – there has never been a better time for shopping around.



A I have had a few questions about kitting out the family room, so it works to everyone's advantage. Study, hobby and play seem to be the main functions – and storage, of course. I did a little research and found this great product from Crown-Imperial.

You can mix and match colours and finishes to your heart's delight and the system is interconnecting allowing you to get the most out of your space. There is an array of components to choose from – you can create the perfect space for your needs. Have a look at www.crown_imperial.co.uk or contact 01227 742424 for a brochure.

If you have any questions you'd like to ask Helle, please email them to helle@scin.co.uk or post them, marked Homes & Gardens Q & A, to KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

HeLar interior solutions

Could asbestos be a hidden hazard lurking in your home?

GIVEN the current economic climate, many people are now looking to improve not move – but there are potential safety issues to be aware of.

It is currently popular to have flat plastered ceilings and if Artex is present, there is the potential for people to rub this down to create the nice flat ceiling.

But until the mid 1980s Artex contained asbestos and you could be creating a potential hazard in your own home.

But Artex is not the only issue in your home. It can be found in ceramic floor tiles, mastic pads under the sink, lino, the adhesive sticking the lino to the floor, panels in the boiler cupboard, the soffits and facias, or your garage roof.

Clarity is simply found by having a sample taken and tested before carrying out any work. If the result is positive you can make an informed decision about what happens next as it may not be necessary to remove the identified asbestos.

In some instances, it may even be possible to carry out the removal yourself, provided you follow the approved codes of practice and some local council tips will accept private asbestos waste thus keeping cost to a minimum.

Whilst there is currently no requirement for a register to cover private residences, applying the same risk management as is in place for non-domestic premises is advisable.

Since May, 2004, any building, other than a private residence needs to know about Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMs) on their premises; its location, condition and how to manage it.

This requires each building to have an Asbestos Register and a Management Plan of how to manage any ACMs on site and includes schools, libraries, shops, your place of work etc. The same information can be applied to your home and the commercial regulation makes the information more readily available as it is regulated by the Health and Safety Executive.

What to look for

Asbestos is believed to be in more than 3,000 different products and was used extensively as a building material in Great Britain from the 1950s through to the mid 1980s with a total ban in 1999.

Establishing the presence of asbestos can only be determined by means of sampling and the situation could need anything from a single sample to a full asbestos survey for extensive refurbishment.

Samples must be tested at a UKAS accredited (United Kingdom Accreditation Scheme) laboratory.

Who to turn to

When choosing an asbestos company look for P402 certification, which ensures compliance with MDHS100 for Asbestos Surveys. The Fair Trader Scheme, run by Medway Council, is audited by Trading Standards and is a good place to start.

With regard to removal work, the Asbestos Removal Contractors Association (ARCA) accredits reputable contractors and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) licenses businesses for asbestos consultancy, removal and abatement work.

- ARCA – www.arca.org.uk. Find a member in Kent.
- HSE – www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos. Review HSE regulation.
- Further information on this subject – www.asbestosfirst.co.uk.

DANGER: Check before you renovate in case you're dealing with asbestos in the loft (left) or in Artex ceilings (right) or other building material (bottom left)

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It's not just window dressing

Room from Window Style by Gina Moore showing The Everwood collection of alternative wood blinds from Hunter Douglas

If your rooms are looking dull and light-starved, it could be time to focus on your windows. We fling open the shutters, pull back the drapes to find some solutions

By GABRIELLE FAGAN

WINDOWS don't just let light into our houses, they're the stars of today's homes.

Think of them as a blank canvas that you can dress to suit your room's style. Thanks to the variety of window treatments now available, it's easy for them to reflect your individual taste.

Julia Goodwin, editor of House Beautiful, says giving your windows some TLC can make a dramatic difference to the overall look and feel of your home. She says that minimal window dressing is waning as we yearn for more luxury, comfort and decoration in our interiors.

"Curtains are enjoying a renaissance – their insulating properties combined with a look of opulence add much needed warmth and cheer in these days of austerity."

Gina Moore, author of Window Style – a complete, beautifully illustrated practical guide to window treatments, agrees that it's impossible to overestimate the impact of windows on a room's style, mood and atmosphere.

"How you choose to decorate a window reflects a large part of yourself – the way you live and your tastes," she says.

Decisions about which window treatment to choose should be based on practical as well as visual considerations.

"You need to take into account the function of the room – whether a bedroom, kitchen or dining room – the architectural style or shape of the window, and the colour and design of other furnishings in the room, and of course budget," Moore says.

WINDOW COLOUR TRENDS

Nature's a key theme in interiors, so foliage of every type is blossoming in curtain fabric designs. Naturally, green's a key colour choice.

Shutters from Shutterly Fabulous. Prices start from £245 sq m (for all finishes). Stockist: 0845 017 8988/www.shutterlyfabulous.com

Jo Cassabois, owner of bespoke curtain and blind experts Pret A Vivre, says green brings spring into the home.

"Opt for the soft yellowy greens to lift and

The tree people www.prestonnursery.co.uk

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reflect light, aqua greens and duck egg blues.

"Alternatively, grey is a wonderful springboard colour, which is chic without being overpowering. It can be used for a whole curtain, or as a border, trim, or for accessories, and works well with aubergine, maroon, pistachio greens, duck egg blues, as well as orange and yellow."

WINNING WINDOW TIPS

When styling a window it's essential to consider its shape, size, position and aspect, Moore says.

"The treatment you choose should suit the proportions and design of the window – so stand back and study your window closely so you're sure the treatment you want will fit and be practical before you go out and shop."

Designer Karen Howes, founder of This Designs, reveals her insider secrets for well-dressed windows. "Be aware of what you are framing! Curtains draw your eye to the window so if the view outside isn't pretty, think about disguising it by hanging sheer fabric curtains, like voiles, to allow light in but screen out the landscape," she says.

"The golden rule is 'keep curtains simple but beautifully made', and always floor length – never window sill length."

CURTAIN UP

Goodwin says tailored curtain headings, such as deep pencil pleats, are an excellent way to set off luxurious plain silks and velvet fabrics, but keep to eyelet headings to show off patterned fabrics.

"To add depth to a window, hang plain curtains and Roman blinds in a patterned or soft textured fabric, or just hang dress curtains – that sit on each side of the window but don't close."

Stores such as John Lewis, Marks & Spencer and Next offer an excellent selection of ready-made curtains.

Keep an eye out for Sainsbury's new ready-made curtains (£19.99-49.99) and curtain poles, which will soon be available in selected stores.

If heavy curtains aren't your bag, you could be right on trend for spring.

David Adeane, co-founder of The Natural Curtain Company, which only uses eco-friendly natural fabrics, believes that tie-top sheer curtains will be popular as the weather and light improves.

"These have a chic, airy contemporary feel, will enhance natural light and, later in the summer, soften glare."

Its range of Belgian linen sheers start from £240 a pair in a choice of four colours.

If the budget's tight, Dunelm Mill could come to the rescue. It has more than 400 fabrics in its range, and offers made-to-measure fully-lined curtains right through to Roman blinds and matching cushions.

Make up charges start from £15 per width of fabric, so a set of curtains could cost around £50.

Room from Window Style by Gina Moore. Curtains can be used to subtly alter the proportions of a room. In a high ceilinged living room with a tall sash window, floral curtains with goblet-pleated headings hang from a rod that is much wider than the window. This gives the impression that the window is wider than it is, while showing off the fabric to its best advantage

BRILLIANT BLINDS

Although blinds look less dressy and won't help retain warmth in a room like curtains, which can have an interlining and thermal lining to help retain heat and cut out draughts, they could be an easy, economic way to dress windows.

B&Q design manager Fionnuala Johnston is a real fan. "Blinds are easy to install and can be used in any area of the house – they work particularly well in areas where you need a more practical window covering like bathrooms and kitchens," she says.

B&Q's Pleated Linen effect rollerblind decorated with Mother of Pearl effect buttons is a steal at £12.98. Cassabois highlights roller blinds and venetian blinds as the cheapest option for kitchens, bathrooms or studies.

But her top choice for living rooms and bedrooms are Roman blinds, a panel of fabric lifted into soft folds by hidden cords.

"They are cost effective and dress a window better than a flat roller," she says. "They have the added benefit that they soak up echo and counteract the cold feel of shutters or rollers."

STUNNING SHUTTERS

Shutters, my favourite choice, are rapidly gathering popularity. They can look brilliant – as long as you ensure you choose the right style to suit your home.

They also allow you to wave goodbye to curtain costs such as repairs, relining, or dry cleaning.

Johnston agrees: "Wooden shutters are really taking off in the UK. They're perfect for creating a seaside or trendy New England look."

Window fabrics from Dunelm Mill, £6.99 per metre (Blind) and £6.99 (curtains). Stockist: 08451 65 65 65 or www.dunelm-mill.com

B&Q has teamed up with The California Company and has an online shutter service. Visit www.diy.com/shutters for more information.

Sam Tamlyn, operations manager at Shutterly Fabulous, which makes made-to-measure wooden shutters, believes they also offer one of the best ways to achieve the balance between having natural light and privacy.

"Tier on tier shutters have greater flexibility as the upper panels open independently to the lower, and are ideal for rooms that look straight out on to a street."

Contact details

- B&Q: 0845 850 0175/www.diy.com
- Dunelm Mill: 08451 6565 65/www.dunelm-mill.com
- Eclectic: 01594 833 841/www.eclectic-interiors.com
- John Lewis: 0845 6049 049/www.johnlewis.com
- Marks & Spencer: 0845 603 1603/www.marksandspencer.com
- Natural Curtain Company: 0845 5000 400/www.naturalcurtain-company.co.uk
- Next: 0844 844 8000/www.next.co.uk
- Pret A Vivre: 0845 130 5161/www.pretavivre.com
- Sainsbury's: 0800 636 262/www.sainsburys.co.uk
- Shutterly Fabulous: 0845 017 8988/www.shutterlyfabulous.com
- This Designs: 020 7349 9494 or www.thisdesigns.co.uk.

Grow your own with Dirty Nails

February on the plot

Jerusalem artichokes

DIRTY Nails likes to get his Jerusalem artichokes into the ground as soon as it is workable in the New Year, but any time until mid-March will suffice. He plants his at the back of the veg patch in a line that won't cast shade on other crops. Jerusalem artichokes are very dense of growth and thus ideal for screening off unsightly compost heaps or fences.

Dirty Nails incorporates leaf-mould and grass clippings by digging them into the soil. He plants his artichokes, saved from a previous crop or simply brought from the grocers, one foot apart and five inches deep. This root vegetable will grow in the poorest conditions, but a little tender loving care will repay with a fine crop of knobbly tubers.

All the plants need is to be kept watered and weed-free. Earth-up around the base when there is about a foot of growth. Cut off a third of the tops after mid-summer, to prevent wind-rock. At the end of August Dirty Nails always reduces the top growth by half.

Harvesting can commence any time from November. One plant is dug at a time and the bounty stored in boxes of damp sand until needed. Ten plants should keep a family of four comfortably supplied throughout next winter.

SUN ROOT: Jerusalem artichokes are a tuberous crop which boasts beautiful flowers (above right) a relative of the sunflower

Jerusalem artichokes demystified

The Jerusalem artichoke (Helianthus tuberosus) is neither from Jerusalem, nor an artichoke. In fact this vegetable heralds from North America. It was a staple foodstuff for Native Americans from Nova Scotia in the east to Minnesota and Kansas, well before Columbus 'discovered' the continent.

'Jerusalem' is believed to be a corruption of 'girasola', which in Italian means 'turning towards the sun'. This refers to the habit of the pretty yellow flowers, which like to open into the sun. Its true family is thus revealed: the Jerusalem artichoke is in fact a tuberous-rooted relation of the sunflower.

Nutritionally high in iron, potassium, and thiamine, and alternatively known as the 'sunchoke' or 'sun root', the Jerusalem was being marketed in Europe by the early 1600s. At that time it was called the Canada, or French, potato.

It was also introduced to Britain around then, along with such delicacies as cultivated strawberries, different beans, gourds, sweet peppers and tomatoes.

Song thrush

Listen out for the song thrush enriching an otherwise dull February landscape. They like to perch high up in big lime trees. Their early morning song is a repetitive series of beautiful, tuneful, fluting, liquid notes and elaborate musical clicks and whistles, punctuated by short, well-timed pauses.

The speckle-breasted birds open their beaks widely and constantly turn their heads while delivering this chorus, providing a musical treat for the listener.

• How to Grow Your Own Food by Dirty Nails (ISBN 9781905862115) is available from www.dirtynails.co.uk or Amazon, rrp £10.99.

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Letters continued from page 34

Latchford and Ezekiel objecting during the meeting to this use of new technology. All credit to Cllr John Kirby chairing his last meeting for allowing me to continue.

A number of Conservative councillors have approached me privately and thanked me for widening knowledge of what was happening.

There are two concerns here. Firstly, by not broadcasting meetings, it gives the impression Thanet council is trying to avoid greater public scrutiny. Secondly and more importantly the conduct of the three cabinet members gives a very poor impression.

To the many business people in the room it showed Thanet council's leaders were frightened of new technology, and did not understand it.

One businessman said it gave the appearance that making a party political attack was more important to Cllrs Tomlinson, Latchford and Ezekiel than giving as many people as possible access to what their councillors were doing.

In a fast-moving world all political parties want greater investment and jobs for Thanet. The council's leading representatives need to embrace this, not oppose it. I trust the chief executive will arrange necessary training for those councillors who are not up to speed. All councillors need to be able to advocate for Thanet using 21st century techniques and knowledge.

All Labour councillors want to see council meetings broadcast. I hope the Conservative group will change the minds of its leaders. Local people want to be able to watch council meetings on their computers just as easily as they already watch BBC iPlayer.

Cllr Mark Nottingham
Northwood Ward, Thanet District Council

Scrap the ID card plans

Last Saturday marked the 56th anniversary of the abolition of wartime identity cards.

I am marking this by renewing calls to scrap current plans for ID cards and their linking to passports and other public services via central databases.

The wartime identity card system, introduced in 1939 as an emergency measure, continued after 1945, but was met with a rising tide of public dissatisfaction which saw members of the British Housewives' League burning their identity cards outside Parliament, and a ruling from the Lord Chief Justice that "the good relations between the police and the public would be likely to suffer".

The announcement in the House of Commons that the scheme was to be scrapped, made on February 21, 1952, was greeted with cheers from MPs.

Today, as in the 1950s, Whitehall bureaucrats want to force ID cards on us for their own convenience.

This scheme serves no useful purpose for the public, and the planned database of everyone's ID card information threatens data loss disasters that would make the HMRC disc fiasco seem trivial. It's time to abandon ID card and database plans.

Ministers want to nationalise personal identity by forcing everyone to hand over their details for storage on a central database, but the HMRC disc disaster shows how unwise that would be.

Now the Coroners and Justice Bill is being pushed through Parliament allowing ministers to potentially make Information Sharing Orders that would provide for widespread sharing of information between many government databases. So much for data protection and privacy.

More people now oppose the ID schemes than want them, and increasing numbers are pledging not to co-operate with attempts to force ID cards upon them.

Ian Taylor
Branch co-ordinator, Dover NO2ID (Saying No to ID Cards and The Database State Across Shepway and White Cliffs Country)

Writing from experience

C Dadson demands to know (Letters, February 15) what possessed your motoring correspondent to compare a car to a 'pensioner in a boob tube'.

Some years ago, when in the motor industry, I shared an apartment with Mr Loader in France and saw he was sprouting a promising pair of man-boobs beneath his string vest.

Add the passage of time and I propose the reasons for his choice of simile are staring us in the face.

Brian D Rees
Frittenden

Iceland money is lost

So now we know the real reasons behind the huge hikes last year in parking prices for Sevenoaks citizens.

The revelation that money raised from on-street parking in Sevenoaks could now be siphoned off to swell the coffers at County Hall is simply staggering.

Kent County Council is responsible for the parlous state of our highways, and the amount of potholes and lack of repairs on our roads is indeed notorious.

It is even more amazing still as KCC is still accepting advice from Butlers, which failed to stop Conservative councillors pouring £50 million of our hard-earned money into Icelandic banks.

Will Kent taxpayers ever get their money back?

It is also alarming that Sevenoaks Conservative county councillor Nick Chard recently said Butlers has been very helpful to KCC, given the current fiasco.

Even worse, he said in Kent on Sunday there is "hardly any risk" for taxpayers in their continued involvement.

I for one am not reassured, given the lousy advice given by the credit rating agencies on the performance of banks whose stock has since nosedived, and whose chiefs have had to make grovelling apologies both to the public and parliament.

Dr Alan Bullion
Lib Dem Parliamentary Spokesman for Sevenoaks
Tunbridge Wells

Thanks to good sports

When the Conservative administration took over the running of Hythe Town Council in May, 2007, sports provision on the South Road Recreation ground was in a parlous state.

We inherited a decrepit and condemned pavilion, the PFI project for a sports centre on the site had just collapsed, a grant from Shepway District Council for a replacement pavilion had been turned down and to cap it all, an application to turn the area into a village green which would have stopped all development on this site had been submitted to Kent County Council.

The new council was undeterred and put together a brand new project. The council had already secured a grant from Seeda and a small grant from Kent County Council but our first objective was to put up a vigorous defence against the village green application, which took up a lot of resources in time and money, but thankfully was successful.

Then another bid for grant money was made to Shepway District Council which this time was successful and finally an application was made to the Football Foundation for a grant of more than £400,000.

This last application was very detailed and required input from many organisations which use the recreation ground. This again took up a lot of the council's resources but all the hard work paid off as the money was granted in full.

We now have in place the means to build a new sports pavilion on South Road and can look forward to a positive future where all can enjoy the sporting facilities on this wonderful site.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all the Hythe Town councillors who kept faith with this protracted project, members of outside bodies who have been involved in the strategy for moving the project forward and also to the town clerk and her staff for all the arduous hours and heartaches they have endured over the past two years to get where we are today.

This shows what a small determined town council can achieve with vision and unity.

Cllr Alan Ewart-James
Right Worshipful Mayor of Hythe
Speaker of the Cinque Ports

Cameras are for cash

Just like Terry Hudson, I've also been accused of being a 'boy racer', because I dared point out how speed cameras are being misused, and I'm also in my 60s.

Camera huggers deliberately misinterpret anything said against them, just proving they don't stand up to scrutiny.

This Labour government has done an amazing job of brainwashing people into immediately defending them, no matter how many examples are produced to prove they are just revenue raising 'metal muggers'.

I'm sure, just as with other 'forbidden' issues, it will soon be a crime to even speak disparagingly about them in public.

Official figures show only a few per cent of accidents are caused by speeding, in other words over 90 per cent of accidents are not caused by speeding. I don't know how often it is necessary to repeat this, before the penny actually drops with some people, that millions are being wasted to prevent a few accidents, when it should be spent reducing all accidents.

That's why the deaths on our roads are not reducing.

We don't need more metal muggers, we need more police in cars who are also able to catch the 90 per cent not speeding but still causing accidents. This will never happen because it costs money rather than generates it.

Phil Granger
West Malling

Kent Highway Services

For information and advice on travelling in Kent, go to page **16**.

For all our Traffic Regulation Orders, please go to page **56**.

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Sky's the limit for journalist

INSPIRATIONAL FRIEND: Alan McGuinness with his Bob Friend award, named after the late Sky newsreader (left in picture)

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

A SCHOLARSHIP established in memory of legendary Sky News presenter Bob Friend has been awarded to its first student.

Alan McGuinness, 19, who studies at the University of Kent's Centre for Journalism in Medway, had to impress a panel of judges including members of the Friend family to win the honour.

The three-stage selection process also required applicants to prepare a paper outlining their multimedia treatment of a news story and demonstrate their prowess in current affairs, spelling and grammar.

He will now have his first-year tuition fees paid for by Sky as a result, and can also look forward to a month-long work experience placement on the broadcaster's news channel later this year.

Alan, from Lewisham, south-east London, said: "It's a really big honour and it took me a while for the news to sink in.

"To be associated with such a respected journalist as Bob Friend is also a huge responsibility but it makes me even more determined to succeed in my career."

Mr Friend, who grew up in Tunbridge Wells, was the face of Sky News from its inception in 1989 until his retirement in 2003.

At 15 he became a journalist on the Tunbridge Wells Advertiser, having left the local grammar school, Skinners', with no qualifications.

Mr Friend died of a brain tumour last October, aged 70.

Rob Kirk, head of editorial development for Sky News, congratulated Alan on winning the scholarship.

He added: "We are looking forward to welcoming Alan to Sky News for his placement, where he will learn first-hand the rigours of working in 24-hour rolling news for TV, online, for radio and our interactive platforms.

"We're delighted that we are able to support this scholarship in Bob's name, and very much hope it will help many more worthy candidates like Alan into successful careers in journalism in the future."

The scholarship was officially awarded to Alan at a ceremony attended by journalism centre head Prof Tim Luckhurst and Sky News head John Ryley.

Prof Luckhurst said: "Alan came through a demanding selection procedure to win. All the students in the Centre for Journalism are talented, so the winner had to be exceptional. Alan is.

"He now has the chance to prove his worth in the placement at Sky News. It is the opportunity of a lifetime and I'm sure he will make the most of it."

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TV showcase for teaching assistant skills

A KENT school is to be featured on digital television due to its excellence in training teaching assistants.

Holmesdale Technology College in Snodland will be showcased on Teachers TV later this year after being nominated as an ideal case study by the National Association for Professional Teaching Assistants.

Caroline Roche, who is in charge of support staff training at the school, said: "We don't see teaching assistants simply as support for teachers. They bring their own value to the classroom.

"Because they usually work on a one-to-one basis with the children, they are able to give them far more individual attention than the teacher is able to.

"This means they can help bring out the best in each child."

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SURVIVORS of major fires and the London terrorist attacks are invited to tell their stories as part of an international research project.

The study, which is being undertaken at the University of Greenwich, is aimed at improving buildings and transport safety and evacuation procedures around the world.

• ***Call Francoise Barkshire on 0208 331 8706 for more information.***

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Public Sector Vacancies 50-54
Jobs for Kent 55
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Please contact Julia Carter on 01303 254019
Both posts are subject to CRB disclosure.

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Please call **Belinda on 01622 737847** for further information and the opportunity to meet us.

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Tel : 01634 684571
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Carers

to join their team in providing care and support for those who still live in their own homes.

Hours are flexible, full training is given, all uniforms provided. Car driver is essential.

For an informal chat or to apply for an application pack please contact Alison or Sara on 01303 272348.

All post's are subject to successful completion of Enhanced Disclosure.

Diversity Worker

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KCA (UK) is an expanding and vibrant organisation providing a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services in the drug, alcohol and mental health sectors.

We require a highly motivated and proactive individual to cover maternity leave for the Diversity project. The aim of the role is to offer a community based service by providing advice/information and support to members of local Asian communities who are concerned about their own or someone else's alcohol/drug use.

The ability to work on your own initiative is essential although sufficient support will be provided. Although a relevant professional qualification would be desirable, good communication and interaction skills are essential, as is fluency in Punjabi.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from http://www.kca.org.uk/pages/vacancies.html or email recruitment@kca.org.uk Alternatively, write to KCA (UK), Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT or call 01795 590635.

Please quote reference 551.

Closing date: 27 February 2009.

Interview date: 12 March 2009 in Gravesend.

We regularly have opportunities for **Community Drug Workers**. Vacancies are advertised on our website and if you would like more information please email recruitment@kca.org.uk

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity no: 292824.

www.kca.org.uk

Swale Carers Centre

PROMOTING, SUPPORTING AND EMPOWERING CARERS OF ALL AGES

Parent Carers Support Services Officer

Employment opportunity

This is your opportunity to Promote, Support and Empower Carers of all ages and to become an integral part of an expanding, independent charity that has a well established solid foundation and which is held in high regard within the local community, voluntary and statutory sectors of Swale and beyond.

In partnership with East Kent Coastal PCT, we seek 2 innovative, enterprising people with a proven passion for developing and delivering Support Services to Vulnerable People and with an empathy and understanding of the needs, rights and issues facing Family Carers.

Working as part of our exemplary Family Support Services Team and reporting to the Chief Operations Officer, you will be responsible for the successful development, facilitation and delivery of this essential new initiative to provide advice, advocacy, information, emotional support and respite activities to those families with children and young people in receipt of Disability Living Allowance residing primarily within the Swale District of Kent.

Salary: £18,250 Full-time, or pro-rata to part-time hours
+ Essential Car Users Allowance + Optional Pension Contributions
Hours: 1 x 37 Hrs Per Week, 1 x 22.5 Hrs Per Week
All hours to be worked flexibly to accommodate the needs of the service and will include some evening and weekend working
Contract: Initially 1 year, thereafter subject to funding

For further details and application pack, please contact Mrs S Hornby, Chief Operations Officer 01795 583440 email sandie.swalecarers@tiscali.co.uk
Closing date for receipts of completed applications:18th February 2009
Interviews: 23rd February 2009 – Start Date: 30th March 2009

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For Ashford based roles, the number of sessions and available working days will be negotiated to meet the requirements of the service.

We are also looking for therapists to join our locum/bank list for short term therapeutic work across Kent.

We provide a strong departmental framework with regular clinical supervision, line management, monthly team meetings, effective administration, and opportunities for further training and career development.

Applicants will be required to be qualified to a minimum of Diploma level. A knowledge of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy is highly desirable and you should be eligible for BACP accreditation and/or UKCP registration. Providing focused, short term interventions, you're equally at home working independently or as part of a team.

For an informal discussion of the above posts please contact David Hayter, Operations Manager, KCA Psychological Therapy Providers on 01795 590212.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from http://www.kca.org.uk/pages/vacancies.html or email recruitment@kca.org.uk Alternatively, write to KCA (UK), Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference 552.

Closing date: Monday 9 March 2009.
Interview date: TBA.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all.
Charity no: 292824

www.kca.org.uk

CHARING HEALTHCARE

Senior Carers and Carers needed for both night and day shifts for care home in Dover.

Domestic and laundry staff also required.
For an informal discussion and more information please call **Heather Viggers on 07534 965270** or our **Head Office on 01322 385033**. Alternatively **email heather@charinghealthcare.co.uk** for details.

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Care Worker: To assist service users living in their own homes in Herne Bay, Canterbury & Whitstable areas. Full time to include mornings, evenings and alternate weekends. Part time evenings and weekends. Experience not essential as full training supplied. Mileage allowance paid.

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HMYOI Rochester is a closed institution housing around 757 young offenders on the outskirts of Rochester.

We need an Industrial Grade 1 Pattern B Fire Technician to carry out a variety of tasks ranging from advising on Fire Safety, inspecting equipment and carrying out fire risk assessments to delivering fire training, maintaining up-to-date records and preparing regular reports on Fire and related issues.

You will also evaluate local contingency plans for fire emergencies. Your IOSH Managing Safely qualification will be supported by a current Fire Extinguisher Trades Association Certificate and, ideally, experience in a prison fire safety environment. Additionally you will hold [or be keen to work towards] a NEBOSH National General Certificate.

Excellent benefits include 25 days' holiday and opportunities to develop into a management role.

For an application form and detailed information pack please contact Belinda Lyttle, Kent, Sussex & South Central Recruitment Team, Sir Evelyn Road, Rochester, Kent ME1 3PZ. Tel: 01634 673110. Email: kent-sussex-area-recruitment@hmps.gsi.gov.uk

The closing date for receipt of applications is 2 March 2009.

Applicants will be required to declare whether they are a member of a group or organisation, which the Prison Service considers to be racist.

Part-time working or job sharing will be considered.

The Prison Service is an equal opportunities employer. We welcome applications from candidates regardless of ethnic origin, religious belief, gender, age (subject to being within the normal retirement age for the grade), sexual orientation, disability or any other irrelevant factor.

Ministry of JUSTICE
National Offender Management Service

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KAFEC
kent association of fe corporations

Director of Development
Salary: Circa £50,000 per annum
(more for an exceptional candidate)

The Kent Association of FE Corporations (KAFEC) is an innovative partnership of the seven FE colleges based in Kent & Medway. Formally established in 1994 its main purpose is to raise the profile and reputation of FE in Kent and Medway while continually driving up the quality of FE provision. Through collaborative working, mutual support and the sharing of best practice, KAFEC aims to influence the development of education and training for the benefit of all learners.

We are seeking to appoint a Director of Development to drive forward the implementation of our Key Strategic Priorities. The successful applicant will be both innovative and strategic in their thinking with a proven track record of working with partnerships and managing the successful delivery of externally funded projects. Positive and pro-active in response to the volume and complexity of your work you will have excellent communication skills, the ability to negotiate bids and contracts and must be extremely self-motivated.

The Chair of KAFEC is held by one of the seven colleges, for a fixed term of three years. The current Chair is Principal of MidKent College and the post holder will be based at MidKent College, until 31st July 2010. Thereafter, the post holder may be based at any one of the seven KAFEC colleges in Kent and Medway.

Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) Enhanced Disclosure and List 99 clearance.

For an informal discussion about this post please contact the Chair of KAFEC, Stephen Grix on 01634 884387, alternatively by e-mail: stephen.grix@midkent.ac.uk

To apply:
Email: job.applications@midkent.ac.uk
Telephone: 01634 884511

For further information about KAFEC visit: www.kafec.org.uk

The closing date for the above post is Friday 27th February 2009

Action for Business College · Positive About Disabled People · Investor in People · Working Towards Investors in Diversity www.iidok.com

KAFEC is committed to Equal Opportunities and encourages applications from all sections of the community and welcomes applications from under represented groups including black, minority, ethnic and disabled people.

Career Opportunities

Canterbury College

Canterbury College is an equal opportunities employer

Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you.

Section Manager Cleaning/Security/Public Services/Health & Safety/ Environmental Health **06/122**
37 hrs per week, salary starting £33,858 per annum

Coordinator Animal Care and Land Based Studies **08/156**
37 hrs per week, salary starting £27,209 per annum

Lecturer Beauty and Holistic Therapies **06/142**
27.75 hrs per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

Lecturer Key Skills Media **06/67**
37 hrs per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 per annum

Lecturer Public Services **08/145**
37 hrs per week salary range £18,387 – £26,363 per annum

Lecturer Public Services **06/92**
37 hrs or 2 x 18.5 hrs per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 per annum (pro rata for part time posts)

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For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference.

Staff benefits include:

- *Pension & Life Assurance Scheme*
- *Proximity to main bus & train stations*
- *Close to City Centre*
- *Sports Hall & Gym*
- *Generous Holiday Allowance*
- *Staff Discount Scheme*

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 2nd March 2009 at 12 noon

CLICK www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies
CALL *01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone)*

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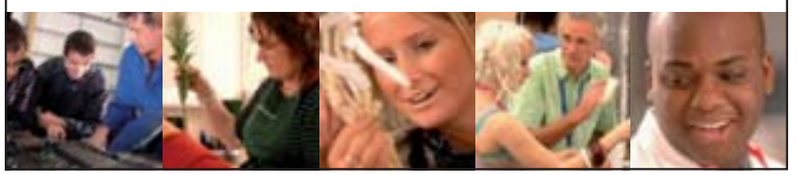

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Career Opportunities

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Caretaker **ref: 09/07**

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £15,085 per annum

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Staff benefits include:

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- **Proximity to main bus & train stations**
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The closing date for the above post is Monday 2nd March 2009 at 12 noon

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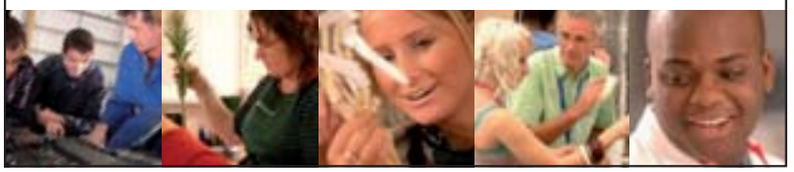

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Kent Police Authority

Ensuring the best possible policing service across Kent and Medway

JOIN OUR STANDARDS COMMITTEE - April 2009

Kent Police Authority is an independent body that oversees Kent Police. We're looking for people from across Kent and Medway to join our Standards Committee. You will play a key role in monitoring the conduct of Kent Police Authority members to ensure high standards.

- You will be expected to attend two Authority meetings a year and carry out adhoc work to help members adhere to a Code of Conduct
- You will have a keen interest in policing and be able to demonstrate sound decision making skills
- The ability to be objective and question the behaviour of members whilst remaining impartial

As well as a daily allowance you will also be paid for expenses. The term of appointment will last for four years. You need to be over 18, live or work within Kent and Medway (and have done so for at least a year prior to appointment) and not be otherwise disqualified. Kent Police Authority welcomes applications from all eligible people from all backgrounds.

For more detailed information about the role and for an application pack please call 01622 677055 or email kpaenquiries@kent.pnn.police.uk
Closing date 13 March 2009

DOVER IMMIGRATION REMOVAL CENTRE >

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With more than 50,000 staff, the Prison Service recognises the importance of achieving through people. There couldn't be a more exciting time to join us, as we implement ambitious modernisation plans throughout our operations.

Dover Immigration Removal Centre provides secure but humane accommodation for appellant and failed male asylum seekers aged over 18. The regime offers as much freedom of movement and association as possible and encourages detainees to make the most productive use of their time whilst respecting their dignity and right to individual expression.

We need a positive, flexible person to help ensure the efficient running of our catering service. This will include everything from supervising kitchen assistants, training detainees and managing stock to ensuring food production meets health, safety and PSO 5000 requirements. You may also be expected to work a minimum of alternative weekends.

To qualify you will need a City & Guilds 706/1 & 2 or NVQ Level 1 & 2 equivalent together with an Intermediate Food Hygiene and Safety certificate. A knowledge of ethnic cooking and experience of working in an industrial kitchen would both be welcomed. Full training will be provided, so you should be keen to develop your qualifications and skills.

All candidates must be British or Commonwealth Citizens, British Protected Persons or EEA Nationals.

To apply, please email kent-sussex-area-recruitment@hmps.gsi.gov.uk or visit our website www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk

The closing date for receipt of completed applications is Friday 27 February 2009.

Applicants will be required to declare whether they are a member of a group or organisation, which the Prison Service considers to be racist.

Part-time working or job sharing will be considered.

The Prison Service is an equal opportunities employer. We welcome applications from candidates regardless of ethnic origin, religious belief, gender, age (subject to being within the normal retirement age for the grade), sexual orientation, disability or any other irrelevant factor.

Ministry of JUSTICE
National Offender Management Service

Assessors (Variable Hours)

Ref: S2167

Folkestone/Ashford/Dover **Closing date: 06/03/09**

With campuses in Ashford, Folkestone and Dover, South Kent College offers a wide range of courses from Entry Level to Level 7 and caters for over 10,000 students of all ages.We are currently recruiting for Assessors in all vocational areas including Catering, Construction, Motor Vehicle, Engineering, Business Administration and Customer Care.

Main duties include assessing workplace students up to NVQ Level 3 and Key Skills Level 2, supporting and guiding candidates in portfolio building, 'on' and 'off-the-job' training for Work Based Training programmes, and acting as a mentor to students. You will hold a minimum of NVQ Level 3 or equivalent in your relevant specialism, and the A1 Assessor Award or equivalent (formally D32/33) as well as having a minimum of three years recent and relevant experience in your field.

For further information please contact the Human Resources Department on 0845 207 8222 (24 hour answerphone), email: humanresources@southkent.ac.uk or visit www.southkent.ac.uk. Please submit a CV in the first instance, with a covering letter detailing which specialism you are interested in applying for.

All posts are subject to a disclosure check by the Criminal Records Bureau. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all employees to share this commitment. Applications are welcome from suitably qualified candidates regardless of ethnicity, gender, age, disability, sexuality or religion.

SKC South Kent College
ASHFORD • DOVER • FOLKESTONE

Paint a brighter future for yourself

west kent college

Lecturer in Painting/ Decorating/Tiling

£23,525 - £32,343 + excellent benefits

Already one of the most successful colleges in the south east, our construction team is now building on its strong record of achievement. With new tiling and painting & decorating courses in the pipeline, plus increasing student numbers, it's the perfect time to join this growing and diversifying department.

As well as teaching at both Entry Level 3 and Level 2, you'll act as course leader - making a key contribution to our development. So this is a great opportunity to put your ideas to work as you help us train a multi-skilled workforce to meet the needs of today's industry.

Excellent practical knowledge and proven teaching experience (ideally gained in a college or private training organisation) are essential. In return, there are superb benefits including generous annual leave, final salary pension, flexible working options, private health plan and more.

If it's time to take your career to another level, apply online at www.wkc.ac.uk Alternatively call 01732 376511 or email hr-dept@wkc.ac.uk for more information. Please quote ref: KOS02

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Register your details and we'll email you daily with new jobs that match your selected criteria

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The smart way to find a job in the County

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

KOS MEDIA (PUBLISHING) LTD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Advertisements will be accepted only on the express condition that the advertiser warrants that the advertisement does not in any way contravene any existing legislation and in particular the Trade and Description Act 1968 and the Consumer Credit Act 1974.
2. It is the responsibility of all advertisers to ensure that all advertising meets all forms of government legislation and KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (the "media owner") takes no responsibility for liability in errors and omissions to the content of our media.
3. All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.
4. All rates within the annual advertising agreement will be rate protected for 12 months from the first date of publication under the signed agreement.
5. Any unsuitable material posted on any website belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the advertiser or any associated third party will be removed or refused. All passwords and security supplied to the advertiser by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in relation to the use of the posting of material via the media owner's online administration tool will be the responsibility of the advertiser. The advertiser indemnifies KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd against any damages as a result of misuse of these privileges by either the advertiser or any third party given password privileges by the advertiser.
6. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to change passwords intermittently to ensure the overall and ongoing security of its websites within the public domain.
7. Copyright and licenses for voice-over/music/photography or film for advertising promotions or otherwise within the various forms of media in print, online and moving film owned by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must have been sought, verified or paid for by the advertiser where applicable. Approval or permissions must have been given by any potential beneficial owner voice-over or music. The advertiser must be able to verify any statements or claims (promotional or otherwise) in relation to their products/services promoted within any of the media offerings belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd.
8. Where shrinkage of an advertisement occurs for whatever reason, the advertisement will be charged to the nearest full centimetre where it relates to the media owner's printed publications. This will NOT apply to full-page advertisements, which remain full pages even after shrinkage.
9. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to omit or refuse any advertisement/commercial/web content without notice or explanation. In these terms the word "advertiser" shall be construed to include any person or organisation placing an advertisement on behalf of another.
10. A guarantee of insertion cannot be given and the media owners shall not be liable for any loss or damage caused by any error inaccuracy within your marketing content. In no case shall the total liability of the media owner for any error or omission exceed the price charged by the media owners for that advertising.
11. No liability is accepted for any loss or damage alleged to have arisen through delay in forwarding replies to Box numbers, however caused, nor for the loss or damage to any artwork supplied.
12. Claims for any error or inaccuracy in your media messages with KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be made in writing to the accounts department within 10 days of publishing.
13. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions made on their websites by the advertiser.
14. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd has the right to cancel the advertiser's annual membership without notice should the advertiser deliberately publish out of date material or content on any of the media owner's online digital platforms. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd will seek to recover, in full, all outstanding invoices in relation to the signed annual membership as a result of the advertiser's negligence in this regard and reserves the right to claim damages for any potential vexatious action via the advertiser.
15. Advertisers are requested to check their advertisements after the first insertion. The media owner will not be responsible for any errors on subsequent insertions, which have not been advised to them in writing.
16. A minimum of one month's notice must be given in writing for any cancellation of the signed annual advertiser's agreement. Upon cancellation, all discounts from KOS Media's standard effective media advertising rate card (July 2008–June 2009) will be recalculated and adjusted accordingly in line with KOS Media's standard media rate card (effective July 2008–June 2009) and will reflect the revised length of commitment denoted by the advertiser's written cancellation. Any surcharges, refunds or costs in relation to the production of the advertiser's TV commercial for the commitment set out within the advertiser's agreement will be met in full by the advertiser as per KOS Media's standard media advertising rate card (July 2008–June 2009). Discounts will be reapplied and any refunds or surcharges will be paid by either party within 30 days of the advertiser's written cancellation. Any other advertising placed must give a minimum of seven days' written notice and any discounts given for series bookings will be forfeited by the advertiser upon cancellation.
17. Seasonal contracts, Your Professional classified advertisements or any uplift advertising within the annual contract with the advertiser will be invoiced in full - at rate card - on receipt of any written cancellation of this contract within the 12-months.
18. All uplift advertisements must be booked in at least three months in advance of publication and will be subject to availability. All dates booked will be on a first-come, first-served basis.
19. The advertiser must agree to the date and time of filming of any online TV advertising commercial supplied by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd within the advertiser's agreement, (Platinum, Gold, Silver standard of commercial). Should, for any reason, the advertiser not be available at the agreed time without giving sufficient notice (at least 48 hours), KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to charge for any further TV production at its standard published hourly rate should the advertiser still wish to use KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's production services to complete its TV commercial or photographic imagery included in the advertiser's agreement. The advertiser will approve and accept that there are only two choices of voice-over and music offered by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Should an advertiser wish to use other voice-overs or non-copyright free music it is the responsibility of the advertiser to pay the PRS rights should they be required to do so. Any changes to or failure to approve the TV production by the deadlines agreed between both parties will result in KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd being given permission by the advertiser to replace the TV commercial with pictures or stills from a choice of photography supplied by the media owner until the advertiser can supply a TV commercial produced at their own cost and risk outside of this agreement. The advertiser also accepts and agrees that this action would not reduce the value or cost of their membership. Any cost of changes required to the TV commercial throughout the advertiser's agreement will be borne by the advertiser outside of this agreement.
20. Each advertiser accepts that their ranking and position within KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's search engine will be equal to those within their category (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, etc) other than they will be ranked based on the search engine criteria of optimisation within their level (Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze).
21. Any delivery claims made by the advertiser or discount vouchers published within the print or online media of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd and any action as a result of the public or otherwise is the sole responsibility of the advertiser. Any claims resulting from this via KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be met by the advertiser.
22. a. All credit accounts due for payment shall be notified to the Advertiser by the 30th day following the date of the invoice, time to be of the essence. All sums due to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring shall be paid in full, and the Advertiser shall have no right of set off in any circumstances.
    b. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring by the due date, the media owner shall be entitled to suspend all further advertising until payment is received and/or repudiate the contract and make any surcharges for breaking the contract.
    c. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the due date, the media owner reserves the right to charge interest on all overdue balances calculated on a daily basis at the rate of two per cent above the minimum lending rate of National Westminster Bank Plc from time to time in force.
    d. Not withstanding anything in these terms and conditions or implied to the contrary, in the event of the Advertiser ceasing to use the services of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (for whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.
    e. The Advertiser will be liable for all costs incurred by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in the recovery of debts not paid by the due date.
    f. Payment may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.
23. Any discount which KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to meet the above credit terms.
24. Advertising Agency commission will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by the Newspaper Society, but shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. This commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms.
25. All private advertisements and certain categories as laid down by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be prepaid.
26. The Advertiser agrees to indemnify KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the media owners or any of the companies within the KOS Media Group as the result of legal action or threatened legal action or threatened legal arising from the publication of any advertisement or advertising promotion.
27. An order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void in so far as it conflicts with them.
28. Copyright in advertisements produced wholly or partially by the media owners belong to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the media owner's written consent.

All terms and conditions stated above are in place to protect the advertiser, the media owner and the communities they serve within the public domain as well as the beneficial rights of individuals and organisations. KOS Media will endeavour to always act reasonably in applying its terms and conditions.

Effective from June 2008

Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR
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Email: info@kosmedia.co.uk

KOS media

Award winning publications

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Kent County Council

Early Years MSI/Deaf Blind Play Specialist

Starting salary £18,288 with progression through contribution related pay to £20,061 pro rata
25 hours per week, term time only
Countywide

Covering all areas of Kent, work base to be arranged at either Whitstable, Ashford, Kings Hill

Working with individual children with multi-sensory impairment/deafblind in the home and early years settings, you will identify opportunities for inclusion, support families in liaison with other agencies and plan for a smooth transition from home to school.

Qualified and experienced NNEB or equivalent person who has additional qualifications in Portage, Sign language, Braille, mobility or other related specialisms to contribute as part of a multi-disciplinary team under the direction of the Inclusion Coordinator for Visual Impairment.

The ability to travel across a wide geographical area in a timely and flexible manner at various times of the day to meet the requirements of the service is essential.

For further information please contact Ruth Ford, Inclusion Coordinator on 01227 284528. **Ref: CFE/09/0076.**

Closing date: Midday, 12th March 2009.
Interviews will be held on 31st March 2009
for an April/May start.

Early Years Foundation Stage Consultants

Starting salary £29,920, with progression through contribution related pay to £35,370 per annum
37 hours per week
Based at home

4 posts to cover the following areas:
Canterbury/Swale x 2
Ashford/Shepway x 1
T/Wells; Swanley; Cranbrook and Paddock Wood; Sevenoaks x 1

These posts offer a great opportunity to be part of a dynamic local authority where children's attainment and wellbeing are paramount. Your work will influence settings in raising the quality of provision and focus on improving outcomes for children from birth to five.

As part of an area-based team, you will work alongside a range of early years and childcare settings and practitioners to:

- Provide advice and guidance to settings and practitioners in supporting your own processes of self-review to raise standards.
- Provide training to meet the needs of settings, practitioners and Local Authority targets.
- Challenge and support settings in achieving improved Ofsted outcomes and/or accreditation through the Kent Quality Mark.
- Develop and maintain an area of specialism within the team to contribute to the improvement of provision and standards in the area/region.

These posts offer:

- The chance to make a real difference to the quality of early years provision in Kent.
- Excellent personal development and career opportunities.
- An attractive salary and benefits package.

These roles would be suitable for well-qualified professionals with a significant understanding of pre-school work and the ability to work with a wide range of individuals/teams/agencies to facilitate joint working and negotiation. The ability to travel across a wide geographical area in a timely and flexible manner at various times of the day is essential. **Ref: CFE/09/0081.**

These posts are subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

Closing date: Midday, 6th March 2009.
Interview date: 27th March 2009.

To apply for any of the above posts, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904. Please quote the appropriate reference number.

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Gravesend Grammar School for Girls

A Specialist Science College

Pelham Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0JE
Telephone: 01474 352896 Fax: 01474 331195
Website:www.ggsg.org.uk
email: enquiries@ggsg.org.uk

Science

SUBJECT LEADER: ART/TEACHER OF ART: Maternity Cover

Required from April 2009
Main Professional Grade plus TLR 2B (£4037.00)

A well-qualified and enthusiastic Subject Leader/Teacher who will be responsible for leading and developing Art in the School ensuring good curriculum provision and monitoring and supporting the department and students. The successful candidate will also be expected to teach Art in a highly successful department. The person appointed will have the opportunity to teach up to A' Level which is very popular. The department enjoys excellent facilities and equipment and the support of a part-time technician. Applicants should be able to incorporate ICT in their teaching.

Academic standards are exceptionally high (Ofsted 2008) and the School has acquired Investor in People and Investor in Careers status. We were identified as one of the particularly successful schools in the HMI Chief Inspector's Report for 2002-03 and we have been a Specialist Science College since September 2004.

The School has a high profile for achievement locally and nationally and prides itself on a strong record of internal professional development including a full induction in the Summer term. There is also plenty of scope to be involved in a wide range of extra-curricular activities.

Application forms and further details are available from the Headteacher's Personal Assistant, Mrs M Tong Ralphs. Completed forms should be returned by post, fax or email for the attention of Mrs E Wilson, Headteacher no later than
Wednesday 25th February 2009.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Kent Police Authority

Ensuring the best possible policing service across Kent and Medway

JOIN AS AN INDEPENDENT MEMBER £9,000 part-time from April 2009

Kent Police Authority is an independent body that oversees Kent Police. We're looking for people from across Kent and Medway to join as Independent Members. You will play a key role in holding Kent Police to account on behalf of the public.

- You will be expected to attend all Authority meetings and challenge and question senior Kent Police officers and staff. You will attend appropriate designated committees and participate in public consultation on local policing issues.
- You will be expected to keep abreast of developments in both local and national policing. You will be required to represent a broad range of local communities and constructively challenge accepted views.
- Good communication skills are essential as some public speaking will be required and you will be representing the Authority in discussions with interested parties. You should be able to demonstrate relevant skills, experience and knowledge, for example in management, business, finance, strategic IT and community or race-relations.

A commitment of up to two days per week is required, for which an allowance and expenses are payable. This term of appointment will last for four years. You need to be over 18, live or work within Kent and Medway (and have done so for at least a year prior to appointment) and not be otherwise disqualified. Kent Police Authority welcomes applications from all eligible people from all backgrounds.

For more detailed information and an application pack call 01622 677055 or email memberappointment@kent.pnn.police.uk
Closing date 9 March 2009.

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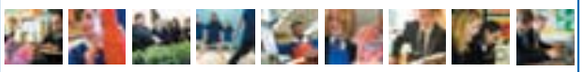
Bredlands Lane, Sturry, Nr Canterbury, Kent CT2 0HD
T: 01227 710392 | W: www.spiresacademy.com

Twin Specialisms: Business & Enterprise
and Visual, Creative & Performing Arts

Spires ACADEMY



Would you like to train to be a teacher in a supportive environment with excellent facilities and students who want to learn?

Then you may wish to join us at Spires Academy from September 2009.

Graduate Trainee Places

We are looking to offer Graduate Trainee Places in the subject areas of:

MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE

Spires Academy opened in September 2007 and achieved excellent results at KS4 in our first year with GCSE results in English and Maths rising from 18% to 32%. Student numbers in Year 7 have doubled and admission applications continue to grow. There is a real sense of optimism in our community, a 'can do' mentality.

Closing date: 12.00 noon, 27th February 2009.

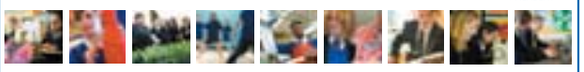
Further details and an application form are available on our website www.spiresacademy.com or contact Marion Wigington at m.wigington@spiresacademy.com or on 01227 710392 ext 227 for an information pack.

Spires Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to appropriate child protection screening, including checks with previous employers and the Criminal Records Bureau.

Bredlands Lane, Sturry, Nr Canterbury, Kent CT2 0HD
T: 01227 710392 | W: www.spiresacademy.com

Twin Specialisms: Business & Enterprise
and Visual, Creative & Performing Arts

Spires ACADEMY



Spires Academy opened in September 2007 and achieved excellent results at KS4 in its first year with GCSE results in English and Maths rising from 18% to 32%. Student numbers in Year 7 have doubled and admission applications continue to grow. There is a real sense of optimism in our community and a 'can do' mentality.

In appointing teaching colleagues we look for candidates who enjoy working with young people and forge positive relationships with them. An enthusiasm for new approaches and ideas are also important.

Required for September 2009

DIRECTOR OF LEARNING – FOR ENGLISH

MPS + TLR £10,303 pa

An exciting opportunity has arisen, following internal promotion, for an outstanding teacher with strong leadership credentials to lead our English team.

We are seeking to appoint a new Director of Learning, who will lead the English team at this exciting stage in our continued growth and development. Although results last year were above the 30% threshold, we are aiming for greater things in the coming years.

TEACHER OF ENGLISH

We are seeking to appoint a Teacher of English to join the Academy for the 2009/2010 academic year. You could start from 1st September 2009, but we are happy to make the appointment from 1st July to facilitate planning and preparation time for the new term.

You will either have QTS in English Teaching or currently be completing your GTP/PGCE year.

TEACHER OF MATHEMATICS

We are seeking to appoint a Teacher of Mathematics to join the Academy for the 2009/2010 academic year. You could start from 1st September 2009, but we are happy to make the appointment from 1st July to facilitate planning and preparation time for the new term.

Prospective candidates will either have QTS in Mathematics Teaching or currently be completing their GTP/PGCE year.

Closing date for the above posts: 12.00 noon, 27th February 2009.

Required for April 2009

COVER SUPERVISOR

Equivalent to Kent Scheme Level 5 | £16,221 – 17,842 pro rata

8.00am – 4.00pm, Mon – Fri term time + five days

Are you committed to developing learning and raising aspirations with students? If so, we want to hear from you. You will be energetic, enthusiastic and able to take charge of children's learning through the delivery of set work.

The ability to work well under pressure is essential as are excellent organisational, interpersonal and communication skills.

Closing date for this post: 12.00 noon, 24th February 2009.

Further details and application forms for all the above posts are available on our website www.spiresacademy.com or alternatively contact Marion Wigington at m.wigington@spiresacademy.com or by telephone on 01227 710392 ext 227.

Spires Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expect all staff to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to appropriate child protection screening including checks with previous employers and the Criminal Records Bureau.

Gravesend Grammar School for Girls

A Specialist Science College

Pelham Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0JE
Telephone: 01474 352896 Fax: 01474 331195
Website:www.ggsg.org.uk
email: enquiries@ggsg.org.uk

Science

TEACHER OF BIOLOGY: Maternity Cover

Required from April-December 2009
Main Professional Grade

We are looking to appoint a Scientist with an excellent degree to teach Biology in our high achieving Science Faculty. The ability to teach to A' Level is preferred. Both Triple and Double Science are offered at GCSE.

This is an excellent opportunity to develop as part of an established team with a supportive ethos.

Academic standards are exceptionally high (Ofsted 2008) and the School has acquired Investor in People and Investor in Careers status. We were identified as one of the particularly successful schools in the HMI Chief Inspector's Report for 2002-03 and we have been a Specialist Science College since September 2004.

The School has a high profile for achievement locally and nationally and prides itself on a strong record of internal professional development including a full induction in the Summer term. There is also plenty of scope to be involved in a wide range of extra-curricular activities.

Application forms and further details are available from the Headteacher's Personal Assistant, Mrs M Tong Ralphs. Completed forms should be returned by post, fax or email for the attention of Mrs E Wilson, Headteacher **no later than Wednesday 25th February 2009.**

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

To advertise in this section
01303 817040

MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint an outstanding individual in the following area:

Front Line Events Co-ordinator — Ref: P0450

Salary: £16,005 - £19,127 per annum

The successful candidate will arrange, develop and deliver activities to facilitate student learning through training and experience at events. You will efficiently organise Frontline events, including liaison with event organisers and Lecturers, supporting the College in the effective running of the Frontline programme. Excellent communication skills and a recognised customer service qualification are essential.

Kitchen Assistant — Ref: P0049

Fixed Term Contract 27.5 hours per week
Salary: £9,939 - £13,420 pro-rata

We are looking to recruit a Kitchen Assistant to provide support to both students and Lecturers in the Catering department. Knowledge of basic food hygiene and Health and Safety is essential.

Closing date: Friday, 6 March 2009

Mid-Kent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and anyone applying for work with the College is expected to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the Personnel department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

Mid-Kent College is an equal opportunities employer

Action for Business College · Investors in Diversity · Positive About Disabled People · RBLI · Investor in People

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A selection of the 100s of Local Jobs online

Administration, Secretarial, PA

Reception and Security Assistant
Medway
Salary: £18,027 - £20,226 PA pro rata
Closing Date: 27 February 2009
To apply/more information:
University of Greenwich
Quoting Job Ref: 01166/K3
Email jobs@gre.ac.uk

Apprentice in Administration
Medway
Salary: £6,171 pa
Closing Date: Friday 27 February 2009
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0587
Tel: 01634 884402
Email
job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

Catering, Hospitality

Industrial Grade 3 Caterer
Dover
Salary: £19,851 - £21,074 PA
Closing Date: Friday 27 February 2009
To apply/more information:
HM Prison Service
Quoting Job Ref: KOS
Email kent-sussex-area-recruitment@hmps.gsi.gov.uk

Child Care

Nursery Officer
Medway
Salary: £12,592 - £16,230 pa
Closing Date: 2 March 2009
To apply/more information:
Medway Council
Quoting Job Ref: CA0438
Tel: 01634 333333
Email jobs@medway.gov.uk

Domestic

Caretaker
Isle of Sheppey
Salary: £15,085 pa
Closing Date: Monday 2 March 2009 at 12 Noon
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 09/07
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Domestic and laundry staff
Dover
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Charing Healthcare
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01322 385033
Email heather@
charinghealthcare.co.uk

Cleaner Supervisor
Dover
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
GSF Sandylight
Quoting Job Ref: 206
Tel: 02380742826
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Graduate Teacher Programme
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Salary: £15,113
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Mike O'Shea
St John's Catholic Comprehensive School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email moshea@st-johns-gravesend.kent.sch.uk

Assessor/Reviewing Officer
Medway
Salary: £19,736 -£25,441 pro-rata
Closing Date: Friday 20 February 2009
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0586
Tel: 01634 884402
Email
job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

Graduate Trainee Places - Mathematics and Science
Ashford
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 27 February 2009 at 12 Noon
To apply/more information:
Marion Wigington
Spires Academy
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 710392 ext 227
Email m.wigington@
spiresacademy.com

Director of Learning - For English
Canterbury
Salary: MPS + TLR £10,303 pa
To apply/more information:
Spires Academy
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 710392 ext 227
Email m.wigington@
spiresacademy.com

Teacher of English
Canterbury
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 24th February 2009 at 12 Noon
To apply/more information:
Spires Academy
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 710392 ext 227
Email m.wigington@
spiresacademy.com

Teacher of Mathematics
Canterbury
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 24th February 2009 at 12 Noon
To apply/more information:
Spires Academy
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 710392 ext 227
Email m.wigington@
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Engineering, Manufacturing, Utilities

New Product Introductions Manager
Folkestone
Salary: Up to 27K pro rata
To apply/more information:
Heather Morgan
Recruitment Solutions (Folkestone) Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: HM6478
Tel: 01303 220844
Email heather@rsfl.co.uk

Skilled Technician or Semi Skilled Technician
Maidstone
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Mr Clutch
Quoting Job Ref: KOS
Tel: 01622 695 696
Email reception@mrclutch.com

Centre Lathe Turner
Medway
Salary: Circa £10 per hour
To apply/more information:
Palatine Precision Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: KOS
Tel: 01634 684571
Email
sales@palatineprecision.co.uk

Estate Agency, Property

Estate Agents
Sevenoaks
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Keith Knight
Freeman Foreman
Quoting Job Ref: KOS
Tel: 01435 867258
Email keith.knight@
freemanforman.co.uk

Graduate, Trainees

Apprentice in Engineering
Kent
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 27th March 2009
To apply/more information:
ECITB
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 80800
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Fire Safety Technician
Rochester
Salary: £22,041 - £24,113 PA
Closing Date: 2 March 2009
To apply/more information:
Belinda Lyttle
HM Prison Service
Quoting Job Ref: KOS
Tel: 01634 673110
Email kent-sussex-area-recruitment@hmps.gsi.gov.uk

Not for profit, Charities

Student Project Coordinator
Ashford
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
CPRE
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Nursing, Medicine, Care Work

Comminity Care Workers
Ashford
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Country Folk Care
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01797 361889
Email
countryfolkcare@hotmail.co.uk

Night Carer
Dover
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Mandy
Riverlea House
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01304 823935
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Carers
Maidstone
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Charing Healthcare
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 737847
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Senior Carers
Dover
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Charing Healthcare
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01322 385033
Email heather@
charinghealthcare.co.uk

Carer
Folkestone
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Julia Carter
Cumbria House Residential Home
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 254019
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Care Worker
Canterbury
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Scott Care Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 711011
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Team Leader
Medway
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Scott Care Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 711011
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Public Sector, Social Services

Kent Police Authority Independant Members
Maidstone
Salary: £9,000
Closing Date: 9 March 2009
To apply/more information:
Kent Police
Quoting Job Ref: KOS
Tel: 01622 677055
Email kpaenquiries@
kent.pnn.police.uk

PUBLIC NOTICES

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS – NOTICES OF APPLICATIONS

The following applications have been submitted to the Council and are being advertised for the reason(s) given in each case.

TM/08/03757/FL – The Chequers Inn Basted Lane Crouch Sevenoaks Kent TN15 8PZ – Mrs Julie Kedge is applying for change of use and redevelopment of the site for 4no. new dwellings with associated parking, comprising conversion and extension of vacant public house and ancillary dwelling and the erection of a new dwelling adjacent. Reason: GPI

TM/09/00043/FL – The Garden Cottage Yotes Court Mereworth Road Mereworth Maidstone Kent ME18 5JQ – Mr And Mrs Ricci are applying for partial conversion of ancillary cottage to form garaging and replacement side extension following demolition of the existing. Reason: CA LB

TM/09/00210/FL – 90 High Street Snodland Kent ME6 5AN – Mr David Payne is applying for conversion of shop and living accommodation into 1 x 2-bed and 3 x 1-bed flats and rear dormer windows (resubmission of TM08/01909/FL). Reason: CA

TM/09/00219/LB – 39 - 47 High Street West Malling Kent ME19 6QH – The Trustees Of Malling Abbey Lodge are applying for Listed Building Application: Renovation of existing premises. Reason: LB CA

TM/08/03140/FL – 94 Chapel Street Ryarsh West Malling Kent ME19 5LW – Mr John Dryden is applying for single storey rear/side extension. Reason: CA

TM/08/03698/FL – The Farmhouse 97 High Street West Malling Kent ME19 6NA – Mrs Natasha Chaussy is applying for erection of a wooden shelter for smokers at the rear of the building. Reason: LB CA

(A) TM/09/00077/FL, (B) TM/09/00261/LB & (C) TM/09/00078/CA – Yotes Court Mereworth Road Mereworth Maidstone Kent ME18 5JQ – Mrs Susannah Ricci is applying for (A) & (B) replacement garden building for ancillary residential use and landscaping of the grounds around Yotes Court, including underground tunnel to link garden building with Yotes Court & (C) demolition of existing garden building. Reason: CA LB

TM/09/00116/LB – 75 Mill Street East Malling West Malling Kent ME19 6BU – Marion Bates is applying for Listed Building Application: Retrospective application to replace lead covering to hips with hogsback tiles, replace 11 broken bonnets with 3 hogsback tiles. Reason: CA

TM/09/00046/FL – Little Cluny The Street Ightham Sevenoaks Kent TN15 9HE – Mr Venermo is applying for rear extension and alteration of ground floor rooms together with new roof and new upper floor layout (resubmission of TM/08/02304/FL). Reason: CA

TM/08/03638/FL – Yaldham Manor Kemsing Road Kemsing Sevenoaks Kent TN15 6NN – Artesian Property Partnership are applying for redevelopment of Yaldham Manor and associated buildings involving replacement dwelling to Trift; partial demolition and change of use of The Lodge to B1; demolition of chicken shed and replacement with one dwelling; conversion and extension to Long Barn to 1 no. dwelling; replacement dwelling to Rosemary Cottage; alterations and extension to Yaldham Manor; alterations to Posset and St Martyn's Cottage to form 1 no. dwelling; alterations to Oast and conversion to 1 no. dwelling; partial demolition and conversion of Barn and Coach House to 2 no. dwellings; erection of 2 no. dwellings, new lodge and fiffe; alterations to garage to provide parking for Yaldham Manor; associated parking, turning and access ways. Reason: HA DEPART MD PROW LB

Reasons for the case being publicised:

LB	Application relates to/affects a Listed Building or its setting
CA	Application is within/affects a Conservation Area
MD	Application is a Major Development
PROW	Application affects a Public Right of Way
DEPART	Application does not accord with the Development Plan
GPI	Application is of general Public Interest
HA	Site is over 1ha

These applications are displayed on our website www.tmbc.gov.uk – click on the button "Do It Online" and follow the instructions for "Planning Applications" online. You can submit your comments by emailing to planning.applications@tmbc.gov.uk (please quote the application number by the date set out below).

Copies of applications listed may be seen during office hours (8.30 am and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday). Any applications within Hadlow, Hildenborough and Tonbridge are available at Tonbridge Castle, Tonbridge. Other applications are available at the office of the Director of Planning, Transport & Leisure, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ. Any representations should be made in writing quoting the application number by 15 March 2009.

David Hughes, Chief Executive

22 February 2009

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Highways – Borough of Dartford

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 - SECTION 116
STOPPING UP OF HIGHWAY AT STONE LEVEL CROSSING, STONE

I AM GIVING NOTICE THAT the Kent County Council propose to make an application to the Magistrates sitting at Dartford Magistrates Court on 27th March 2009 at 2pm for an Order under Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to extinguish highway rights on the grounds that they are unnecessary on the highway at Stone Level Crossing, Stone, as shown in red colour on the plan SUO/08/12/A.

A copy of this notice and the plan referred to are on deposit, and can be seen during normal office hours, at the main reception of Kent Highway Services at Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX and at the offices of Dartford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Dartford.

Highways – Borough of Maidstone

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 - SECTION 116
STOPPING UP OF LAND AT CEDAR DRIVE, BARMING

I AM GIVING NOTICE THAT the Kent County Council propose to make an application to the Magistrates sitting at Maidstone Magistrates Court on 24th March 2009 at 2pm for an Order under Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to extinguish highway rights on the grounds that they are unnecessary on land at Cedar Drive, adjacent to the A26 Tonbridge Road at Barming, as shown in red colour on the plan SUO/08/20/A.

A copy of this notice and the plan referred to are on deposit, and can be seen during normal office hours, at the main reception of Kent Highway Services at Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX and at the offices of Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone.

If you require further information or would like to discuss either of these matters, please contact Andrew Smart of Kent Highway Services either in writing at the Invicta House address given above, or by telephone on 08458 247 800 (24 hour contact centre) or by email to andy.smart@kent.gov.uk

Peter Gilroy,
Chief Executive Kent County Council

Kent Highway Services

PUBLIC NOTICES

DENMED DIRECT SERVICES LIMITED
Company Number 04070533

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of creditors of the above-named Company will be held at Nexus House, 2 Cray Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 5DB, on 27 February 2009, at 11.30 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 100 and 101 of the said Act. Proxy forms to be used for the purposes of the above Meeting must be lodged, accompanied by statements of claim, at the registered office of the Company situated at the above address, not later than 12.00 noon on the business day prior to the date of the Meeting.

Notice is also hereby given, pursuant to Section 98(2)(a) of the Insolvency Act 1986, that Andrew Tate and Nedim Ailyan of Abbott Fielding Limited, at the above address, are qualified to act as Insolvency Practitioners in relation to the above Company, and will furnish Creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they may reasonably require.

Dated 16 February 2009
By Order of the Board
Fadi Nahab, Chairman

L & D LOGISTICS LIMITED
(in voluntary liquidation)
Company No. 5664626

In accordance with Rule 4.106, David Rubin, of David Rubin & Partners, Pearl Assurance House, 319 Ballards Lane, London N12 8LY, gives notice that on 11th February 2009, he was appointed Liquidator of L & D Logistics Limited by special resolution of members and this appointment was ratified by the creditors on 11th February 2009.

Notice is hereby given that the Creditors of the above-named Company are required on or before the 17th March 2009 to send in their names and addresses with particulars of their Debts or Claims, and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to David Rubin F.C.A. of David Rubin & Partners, Pearl Assurance House, 319 Ballards Lane, London N12 8LY, the Liquidator of the said Company, and if so required by notice in writing by the said Liquidator, are by their Solicitors or personally to come in and prove their said Debts or Claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

Dated: 11th February 2009
D Rubin, Liquidator

CLEARWATER SCENERY LIMITED
Company Number 04436644

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of creditors of the above-named Company will be held at 141 Parrock Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1EY, on Wednesday 25 February 2009, at 3.30 pm for the purposes mentioned in Sections 100 and 101 of the said Act.

A list of names and addresses of the Company's creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at 141 Parrock Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1EY, on 23rd and 24th February 2009, the two business days before the date of the meeting.

Dated 16 February 2009
By Order of the Board
Mr Schurings, Director

To advertise in this section
01303 817040

The Insolvency Act 1986
INNDIVIDUAL LIMITED
T/a 'The Grove Ferry Inn'
(In Creditors Voluntary Liquidation)
Company No: 06318212

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, Marc Justin Landsman of Carmichael & Co, City Wharf, New Bailey Street, Manchester M3 5ER was appointed Liquidator of the above named Company by the Members and Creditors on 16th February 2009.

Marc Justin Landsman, Liquidator
Dated: 17th February 2009

The Insolvency Act 1986
J F EVENTS LIMITED
(In Creditors Voluntary Liquidation)
Company Number 5068260

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, Ruth Ellen Duncan of Kent House, Romney Place, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6LH was appointed Liquidator of the above named Company by the Creditors on 13 February 2009.

R E Duncan, Liquidator

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council
Number of signatures required on a petition for a referendum on whether the Borough should have an Elected Mayor

The Borough Council is required, by the Local Government Act 2000, to publish the minimum number of signatures which would be needed to support a valid petition requiring the Council to hold a referendum on whether or not the Borough should have an Elected Mayor.

The minimum number of signatures (equivalent to 5% of the Borough's local government electorate) is **4365**

The above number will apply to any petition submitted to the Borough Council before 1 April 2010. However, a new number will be published in February 2010 and if the new number is less than 4365, then the new number will apply from the date it is published.

Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill,
West Malling, ME19 4LZ
David Hughes, Proper Officer
15 February 2009

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Highways - Borough of Ashford

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(A28 ASHFORD ROAD, TENTERDEN) (PUFFIN CROSSING) ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers under section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984 and all other enabling powers, intends to install a puffin crossing on A28 Ashford Road, Tenterden, 25.0 metres southwest of the mid point of its junction with Rothley Close. Copies of the plan showing this proposal can be inspected during normal working hours at the Kent County Council Offices, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX and at Ashford Borough Council Offices, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1PL.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, ALDINGTON) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of the installation of a new water main, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Various Roads, Aldington, as described in columns 1 & 2 of the Schedule, on or after 9 March 2009, for an estimated period of seven weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via as shown in column 4 of the Schedule

SCHEDULE

Specified Road	Length of road affected	Alternative route	Programmed date
Phase 1			
Bourne Road, Aldington	Between the junctions with Priory Road and Rocky Bourne Road	Via Priory Road, B2067 Bonnington Road, and Yew Tree	From 9 March 2009 for up to two weeks.
Phase 2			
Rocky Bourne Road / Mill Lane	Between the junctions of Bourne Road and Dickson's Bourne	Via Yew Tree, Cherry Orchard Lane, New Road Hill and Mill Lane	From 24 March 2009 for up to five weeks.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(TORRINGTON ROAD, ASHFORD) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because gas mains replacement works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Torrington Road, Ashford, between the junctions with Beaver Road and Lower Denmark Road, on 9 March 2009, for an estimated period of two weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Whitfield Road, Riversdale Road and Torrington Road.

Highways - District of Canterbury

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(CHAPEL STREET, HERNE BAY) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given due to installation of a new water pipe, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Chapel Street, Herne Bay between the car park entrance and the junction with Charles Street, on or after 23 February 2009, for an estimated period of three days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Charles Street, North Street and Mortimer Street.

Specified Road	Length of road affected	Alternative routes
Chapel Street	From the car park entrance to the junction with Charles Street	Via Charles Street, North Street and Mortimer Street
Chapel Street	Suspension of existing one way traffic order between Mortimer Street and Charles Street	N/A

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(HOLLOW LANE, CANTERBURY) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of the installation of new drainage gully chambers, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hollow Lane, Canterbury at the junction with Homersham, for 20 metres in a southerly direction, on 12 March 2009 for an estimated period of four days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Homersham, Wincheap, Pin Hill, Rhodaus Town, Old Dover Road, Nackington Road, Merton Lane and Iffen Lane.

Highways - District of Dover

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(MAISON DIEU ROAD & RUSSELL STREET, DOVER) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because gas main works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Maison Dieu Road & Russell Street, Dover as described in column one of schedule to this order on or after 23 February 2009 for an estimated period of 6 weeks or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for each road described in column 1 of the schedule to this order is described in column 3 of that schedule.

Specified Road	Length of road affected	Alternative routes	Programmed date
Maison Dieu Road	Northbound lane only from the junction with St James Street to the junction with Castle Street	Via St James Street, Castle Hill Road and Castle Street	23 February 2009 for 6 weeks
Russell Street	From the junction with Castle Street to the junction with Dolphin Lane	Via Castle Street, King Street, Queen Street, A20 York Street and A20 Townwall Street	23 February 2009 for 6 weeks

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(A258 DOVER ROAD, WALMER) (RESTRICTED ROADS) ORDER 2009 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that Kent County Council proposes to make an Order under Section 84 of the Act of 1984, the effect of which would be to extend the existing 30mph speed limit on a section of the A258 Dover Road, Walmer from the mid point of its junction with Ripple Road south westwards for a distance of 90.0 metres.

The scheme will provide improvements to the existing signing and the relocation of the existing 30mph Walmer gateway to the straighter length of the A258 Dover Road, closer to Ringwould; this will improve the visibility of the signs for vehicles entering Walmer and aid in the reduction of the number of "shunt" type crashes at the Ripple Road junction, as this would now be within the 30 mph limit.

A copy of the proposed,Order, an explanatory statement and a map showing the extents of the scheme may be inspected during normal office hours at the Kent County Council Offices, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 1XX, the Dover Town Council Offices, Maison Dieu House Biggin Street Dover CT16 1DW and the Dover District Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, Kent, CT16 3PJ.

Anyone wishing to support, or object to this proposal should write to Diane Bourne, Jacobs Engineering UK Ltd, Miller House, Lower Stone Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6GB quoting the name of the Order and reference No "B110440" and stating their reasons, by not later than Monday 16th March 2009.

Highways - Borough of Gravesham

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
PALMER AVENUE & HAWKINS AVENUE, GRAVESEND (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Palmer Avenue, Gravesend between its junction with Beckett Mews and property numbered 91 and on Hawkins Avenue, Gravesend between its junctions with Ferguson Avenue and Palmer Avenue.

The Order will become effective on 9th March 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the routes described above will be via: Christian Fields Avenue and Warrior Avenue.

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate the redevelopment of the Christian Fields Estate.

Highways - District of Sevenoaks

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL A224 POLHILL, OTFORD (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on A224 Polhill, Otford between its junctions with Otford Lane and Pilgrims Way West.

The Order will become effective on 9th March 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the works are planned to last 2 Sundays, 15th and 22nd March 2009. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via:

For Non-motorway Traffic: Otford Lane, Knockholt Road, Halstead Lane, Old London Road and Star Hill Road.

For Motorway Traffic: A224 Polhill, M25, A25 Westerham Road/Worships Hill, A224 London Road/Polhill

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate the removal of dangerous trees.

Highways - Borough of Swale

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(ST MARYS ROAD, FAVERSHAM) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because footway works in East Street are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on St Marys Road, Faversham from its junction with Institute Road to jct East Street on or after 9 March 2009 for an estimated period of three weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Institute Road, Newton Road and East Street.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(A299 THANET WAY, GRAVENEY WITH GOODNESTONE) (TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of road works and the installation of street lighting, the Kent County Council has made an Order on the A299 Thanet Way, Graveney with Goodnestone, between the Lychgate overbridge up to and including the Brenley Corner roundabout and all slip roads, on or after 1 March 2009, for an estimated period of 11 weeks or until such works are complete.

The effect of the Order is to impose a temporary mandatory 50mph speed restriction on both carriageways of the A299 between the Lychgate Bridge (No. 1048) and the Brenley Corner Junction with the M2/A2, including the whole roundabout and each of the slip roads.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(TUNSTALL ROAD/BREDGAR ROAD, BREDGAR) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because Carriageway Surfacing works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Tunstall Road/Bredgar Road, Bredgar between Primrose Lane and 1 Oakwood Cottages on or after 9 March 2009 for an estimated period of one week or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Bexon Lane, Ruin Barn Road and Tunstall Road.

This order will come into force on Monday 9 March 2009, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected and will remain valid for a period of eighteen months.

The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

Highways - District of Thanet

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(A254 RAMSGATE ROAD AND CHAPEL HILL, MARGATE) (CONVERSION OF FOOTWAY TO CYCLE TRACK) HIGHWAYS ACT 1980

NOTICE is hereby given that Kent County Council in exercise of its powers under Sections 65 and 66 (1) of the Highways Act 1980 and all other enabling powers, intends to convert a footway to a cycle track of the type as described in column 1 of schedule 1 hereto, at the location described in column 2 of the said schedule.

The purpose of this scheme is to provide safer facilities for cyclists away from busy roads within the area.

Copies of the plan showing this proposal can be inspected during normal working hours at the Kent County Council Offices, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX and at Thanet District Council Offices, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent CT9 1XZ.

Anyone wishing to support these proposals, or object to them, should write to Diane Bourne, Jacobs Engineering UK Ltd, Floor 9, Miller House, Lower Stone Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6GB, quoting the name of the Order and reference No B1002300 and stating their reasons, by not later than Monday 16th March 2009. Responses received after this date will not be included.

Schedule 1

(Conversion of Footway to Cycle Track)

Type of Cycle	Track Location
Shared Un-Segregated:	A254 Ramsgate Road and Chapel Hill, Margate on the north east side from a point opposite the common boundary between nos. 191 and 193 which is the mid point of its junction with the entrance road to the property commonly known as "Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Hospital" to a point 9.0 metres north west of the common boundary between nos. 298 and 300.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(MANOR ROAD, ST NICHOLAS AT WADE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because scaffolding and sewer connection works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Manor Road, St Nicholas at Wade at the junction with The Length on or after 9 March 2009 for an estimated period of 4 weeks or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via A28 Canterbury Road and The Length.

Highways - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(CARPENTERS LANE HADLOW) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road, the Kent County Council have made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Carpenters Lane Hadlow on or after Monday 23rd February 2009 for 1 week or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is for northbound traffic via Maidstone Road, and Common Road, and for southbound traffic vice versa.

M J McCabe & Sons Ltd apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for a new foul drainage connection. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Dean Barber on 01403 785855.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

Driving
www.carsforkent.co.uk

Sponsored by AVC
www.activevehicles.co.uk
Telephone (01227) 281818

Seat's new saloon drives in with help from its big friend

By **STEVE LOADER**

SPORTY SEAT is about to take a gamble by entering the upper-medium saloon and estate sector or Ford Mondeo class.

But the Spanish brand is hedging the bet since the new Exeo (from £17,740) is a gift from VW group sister brand Audi – a re-work of the A4 replaced last year.

That car remained competitive to the last and clearly has gas left in the tank for Seat, especially if repackaged at a lower price and loaded with goodies that Audi buyers would have paid extra for.

Just as important, the Avant spin-off will be carried over to create an affordable lifestyle estate known as the ST, available to order when the saloon makes its showroom debut on April 2.

However, while many would-be buyers will enjoy boasting that they "bought an Audi for Seat money", I wonder if the car needed just a bit more disguise.

Apart from front and rear-end revisions and cabin tweaks, the Exeo is still visibly an A4 and loses out on the more dynamic styling of most other Seats.

That said, the adoption of an Audi cast-off does not compromise the marque's sporting mantra – the previous A4 was always a driver's car.

Simon Danson, sales manager of Dover Seat dealer Hollis Motors, said the Audi link was helping: "All the people inquiring here about the car were aware of and interested because of the A4 connection."

Four Exeo trim levels will be offered – S, SE, Sport and flagship SE Lux – with a choice of two frugal and tax-friendly VW group diesels delivering 141bhp and 167bhp or a 188bhp turbocharged petrol engine, all with a six-speed manual gearbox.

Standard kit includes Bluetooth hands-free phone connectivity, cruise control, steering wheel-mounted audio controls, dual-zone climate control and alloys.

Options include an inventive solar panel sunroof that can power the car's ventilation and cool the interior, even when the ignition is off.

• SEAT's coupé-style family hatch, the Leon, and the equally eye-catching Altea MPV get midlife makeovers this summer.

Both have had some smoothing off, without radically changing – or ruining – their looks.

Seat engineers have been busier beneath the bodywork developing a new XDS electronic traction control for certain models.

Said to mimic a limited slip differential in the management of power and traction to the front wheels, it does so without costly and heavy mechanicals.

Engines across both ranges have also been fettled to boost performance while cutting fuel consumption and emissions.

Mr Danson said both cars were strong sellers for Hollis Motors, though the Altea was more popular for his dealership, pushing the Leon into third place and bucking the national trend.

But the runaway best-seller is the new Ibiza hatchback, especially as Seat offers zero per cent finance on Sport versions until the end of March.

He said "People are keen to save money at the moment and the arrival of the frugal new Ibiza Ecomotive version in March is creating a lot of interest."

There are zero per cent deals on other selected Seats too.

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INSIDE

The cult Fiat 500 opens up Page 60

Mini JCW is just the works Page 61

Avensis' looking better Pages 64-65

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08 08 NEW ZAFIRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C TURQUOISE 4000 MILES £9995
08 08 SKODA ROOMSTER 2 AUTO PAS AIR/C MET GREY 450 MILES £9995
08 08 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE 2000 MILES £5995
08 08 VW POLO 1-4 MATCH 6 SPEED AUTO 5DR AIR BLACK 1000 MILES £9995
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08 08 MATRIX 1-6 GSi PAS AIR/C AUTO SHIMMER BLUE1500 MILES £6995
08 08 MICRA ACCENTA PLUS 5 DOOR AUTO BLACK PAS AIR/C 1900 MILES £8995
08 08 NEW FOCUS 1-6 STYLE AUTO PAS 5 DOOR THE NEW BLUE 2000 MILES £10495
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07 57 NISSAN NOTE TEKNA 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR BLUE 1500 MILES £9995
07 57 CORSA 1-4 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C STAR SILVER 7000 MILES £8995
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07 07 FUSION 1-6 PLUS CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR/C AMYTHYST 4000 MILES £7995
07 07 FUSION 1-6 PLUS CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR/C TANGO RED 14000MILES £7995
07 07 FIESTA 1-4 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS ALLOYS BLUE 20000 MILES £6995
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05 05 FUSION '2' 1-6 AUTO PAS 5 DR PANTHER BLACK 20000 MILES £5495
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06 56 MEGANE DYNAMIC 2-0 CONVERTIBLE AUTO PAS 19000 MILES £9995
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07 07 FUSION 1-6 PLUS CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR/C TANGO RED 14000MILES £7995
07 07 FIESTA 1-4 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS ALLOYS BLUE 20000 MILES £6995
05 55 FIESTA 1-6 GHIA 5 DR AUTO PAS TONIC BLUE LEATHER 4000 MILES £6995
05 05 FUSION 2 1-6 AUTO PAS 5 DR PANTHER BLACK 20000 MILES £5495
03 53 FUSION 2 1-4 AUTO PAS AIR/C BRONZE METALLIC 38000 MILES £2995

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06 56 FOCUS 1-6 LX ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR/C STEEL GREY 12000 MILES £7995
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FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader

Mazda 5 makeover

AS another open-top car hits the market, Mazda has given a makeover to the car that rekindled British interest in wind-in-the-hair motoring – the MX-5.

Now into its third and arguably best-looking generation, the revised roadster (from £16,345) is due in showrooms from April 1 and now offers an optional F1-style 'PowerShift' six-speed sequential paddle-shift transmission with full auto mode.

Having made many eco-conscious gains with the latest Mazda2 and Mazda6 model ranges, the Zoom-Zoom brand has also boosted fuel economy by up to eight per cent and cut CO2 emissions by up to seven per cent on the car's 1.8 and 2.0-litre petrol engines.

Perhaps surprisingly for a car renowned for driver-pleasing handling, the chassis has been fine tuned too.

Mazda has also decided to give the folding hard-top Roadster Coupé version (from £18,345) a more premium image although these versions cost just £2,000 more than their 'ragtop' sisters: climate control is standard and heated leather seats are standard or optional, while the sporty new mesh-type grille and headlamps have brightwork trimming and exterior door handles have a chrome finish.

Fiat starlet shows roofless ambition

FIAT has lifted the lid on its latest 500 version – literally.

For the new Fiat 500C is the long-awaited cabriolet version of the cult car of the moment and pays homage to the original 1957 Fiat Nuova 500's fabric roof, by using a roll-top approach instead of a full drop-top.

The choice of format will almost certainly have been influenced too by retaining as much rigidity as possible, without the weight penalty from extra strengthening needed after chopping the roof and window frames.

The top will be offered in ivory, red and black and can be matched with several exclusive body colours.

The newcomer arrives in the spring and features the same two petrol/one diesel engine options as the standard two-door supermini version and incorporates the fuel-saving Start &Stop system.

Ultimate Mini to open up

STILL on an open-top theme, the ultimate production model of the all-new Mini Convertible arrives in showrooms on March 28.

The John Cooper Works Convertible (£23,470) – sister to the JCW hatchback tested opposite – has a turbocharged 211bhp, 1.6-litre engine capable of 0-62mph in 6.9 seconds, an average of around 40mpg and a top speed of 146mph.

In all cases, it is only slightly inferior to its roofed sister.

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Mini groupies will love the JCW

by STEVELOADER

WHO buys the John Cooper Works Mini?

That was the question I kept asking as I hurtled along in this ultimate version of BMW's reborn motoring icon.

Is it people who, if they had the time, would spend their lives bungee jumping, powder skiing, white-water rafting or running with the bulls of Pamplona?

Or is it people who want to shout out loud that they are driving a cult car with knobs on, can afford to blow some five grand more than the £16,575 for the 'standard' Cooper S and enjoy driving at posing rather than high speeds?

I'll risk my neck here and suggest most will be from the latter group and they will love the bigger alloys, beefier and more aerodynamic body add-ons and bathe in the aura of 'Works' badges all over the car.

However, there is much for adrenalin junkies of group one. Okay, upping the JCW's engine from 175bhp to 208bhp and including an 'Overboost' facility to add extra low-down punch cuts only half a second from the 0-62mph sprint time.

But the appeal for thrill seekers is how this extra power is delivered; the tweaked exhaust generates far more noise from the back end, while spirited driving prompts lots of squawks, snarls, pops and bangs.

The JCW can also be made to storm along a winding road so quickly that it really belongs on a track rather than the open road.

It is not docile though; the front wheels of the standard Cooper S will let you know via mild torque steer that they can struggle to apply that car's turbocharged power to the road.

In the pumped up JCW, the struggle can become a battle… especially in the wet. It is not horrible – thanks to the 'Dynamic Traction Control' – but does anyone want to drive with such unruliness unless they are fully paid up – to the tune of £20,995 for the JCW – members of groups one or two?

No, save your cash and go for the standard 'S', which now looks like stunning value: an icon that can be uniquely customised, is fast and five grand cheaper than a JCW – a real recession beater.

Not that the John Cooper name should be dismissed as some costly and flashy marketing device. The Cooper name had strong historic links with the original Mini and when BMW created the first generation new Mini in 2001, John Cooper's started tweaking standard cars again so successfully that BMW acquired the name and used it to create a sporting sub-brand – there is a JCW version of the Mini Clubman (estate) and a JCW Convertible arrives in the spring.

The JCW interior gains some extra 'Works' trimming, but the Mini interior is already a winner with its big centre-mounted speedo – a digital version sits dead ahead of the driver on the rev counter – flick switches above and below and lots of classy retro chic.

Space is not great for the overall size of the car, but the range holds its value better than any other car and is greener than most.

DrivingStats

- MINI John Cooper Works £20,995
- Range: £11,925-test car
- Garage stats: 3.71 by 1.68m three-door hatchback
- Powertrain: 1,598cc/208bhp turbocharged four-cylinder petrol engine driving front wheels through a six-speed gearbox.
- Performance: top speed 148mph and 0-62mph in 6.5 seconds.
- How green?: category-D £145/year road tax and 165gm/km CO2 emissions.
- Official fuel figures: combined 41mpg.
- Euro NCAP safety rating (0-5 stars): *****
- Fuel tank: 40 litres/14.3 gallons
- Insurance group: 17
- Warranty: three years/60,000 miles
- Website: www.mini.co.uk
- Rivals: BMW 1-Series M Sport, Fiat Abarth 500, Mitsubishi Colt Ralliart, Peugeot 207 GTi, Renault Clio Renaultsport and Vauxhall Corsa VXR.

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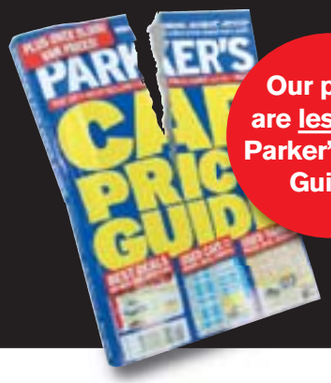

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Avensis steps into the

DrivingReview

by STEVE LOADER
CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

Toyota Avensis

THERE'S no hiding place in the family car sector today – as proved by the latest generation of Toyota's once anonymous Avensis.

'Mondeo class' contenders like this now have to battle on image and style as well as value, having seen a once huge market share hunted down by 4x4s, MPVs and executive class rivals.

Ford's latest Mondeo itself and the Vauxhall Insignia – replacing the Vectra – have had quality and style hikes and the Avensis follows suit.

Where its two predecessors could afford to be less than sexy by majoring instead on Toyota's key attributes – reliability, economy and practicality – the new car needed to cut a dash and be brave in its market approach.

It succeeds on both counts with sharp, aggressive new lines that show how dated the old car had become, plus a decision to drop a hatchback option in favour of a straight choice between classy saloon and Tourer (estate) – Toyota is confident the latter will contribute 50 per cent of sales.

Having driven a high-spec T4 Tourer model this week, we can't argue with that; the car has rakish style yet loses nothing in practicality and drives better than before, helped by an extended wheelbase and track within similar overall dimensions.

It is still no Mondeo beater, but the Toyota offers cheap running costs thanks to the Japanese motor giant's 'Optimal Drive' technology, evolved after taking a long look at the way powertrains are constructed.

This was crucial to designing the brand's tiny IQ city car, but has filtered through to larger models, so new Avensis engines feature low-friction components, lighter and more compact design elements and enhanced combustion, adding up to lower emissions and better economy and, says, Toyota improved driving characteristics.

With tougher times upon us, this cocktail of style and savings should help keep Toyota high in customer satisfaction surveys, though the newcomer fails to meet the threat from the most notable of aforementioned executive class rivals – the BMW 3-Series.

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limelight at last

residuals, the high image Beemer's appeal to company car 'user choosers' and fleet managers remains untouched by the new Mondeo, Insignia and now the Avensis.

Nevertheless, the Toyota is impressive and looks and feels upmarket with the Tourer making best use of the current trend for divergence between the roof line and rearmost window frames to deliver a rakish rear end as well as decent headroom. The cabin is gimmick free and passes the touch test for quality, but can seem a little character-less – the £600 optional panoramic roof could be a cure.

Our car was fitted with a 150bhp 2.0-litre petrol unit, offering plenty of power and there is a completely new highly rated 145bhp 1.8-litre sister likely to be the preferred option for this fuel, but 2.0 and 2.2-litre diesels will surely dominate sales.

That said, I liked the petrol's responsiveness and refinement and a slick six-speed manual shift allows an average of around 40mpg – unheard of at this capacity only a few years ago.

Motorway refinement is excellent though the Avensis is still no Mondeo or 3-Series rival for driving satisfaction, thanks to greater emphasis on ride quality.

For its size, it impresses for space, being a decent five-seater with spectacularly generous rear head and legroom not gained at the expense of the Tourer boot, which is equally large and has copious under-floor stowage, a ski slot and two side compartments for corralling the usual load-space flotsam. The sharply angled rear tailgate robs some upper level load space though.

DrivingStats

- Toyota Avensis Tourer 2.0-litre T4 £20,410
- Range: £15,760-24,570
- Garage stats: 4.69m by 1.81m five-door estate
- Powertrain: 1,986cc/150bhp four-cylinder petrol engine driving front wheels through a six-speed gearbox
- Performance: top speed 124mph and 0-62mph in 9.3 seconds
- How green?: road tax band-D (£145/yr) and 164g per km CO2 emissions
- Official fuel figures: combined 40.9mpg
- Euro NCAP safety rating (0-5 stars): n/a (maximum ***** for previous model)
- Fuel tank: 60 litres/13.2 gallons
- Insurance group: 10E
- Warranty: three years/60,000 miles
- Website: www.toyota.co.uk
- Rivals: Alfa Romeo 159, BMW 3-Series, Citroën C5, Ford Mondeo, Honda Accord, Mazda6, Peugeot 407, Renault Laguna, Seat Exeo (arrives 2 April), Skoda Superb (saloon/hatch only), Subaru Legacy, Vauxhall Insignia and VW Passat

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Pathfinder	List Price	Baileys Price	SAVING
08/08 Pathfinder 2.5DCi Mammoth Auto. Emotion Red	£31,865	£19,995	£11,870

Navara - all prices +VAT	List Price	Baileys Price	SAVING
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08/08 Navara Aventura X-Back, Silver	£24,157	£19,995	£4162
08/08 Navara Long Way Down Expedition Auto (£4.5k extras)	£27,637	£19,995	£7643
08/08 Navara Double Cab Aventura AUTO, Storm Grey	£22,931	£14,995	£7936

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147, T.spark 16v Lusso 5dr, av53oee, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, rear wash/wipe, electric windows, air conditioning, cd player, radio, 14'' alloys, red, 53000 miles, £3699, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

AUDI

A2, 2003, abs air conditioning alloy wheels board computer cd player side airbag driver and passenger steering wheel with radio control tiltable steering wheel, blue, 29277 miles, £6650, FGBarnes, Maidstone, 01622 755531 (TRADE)

A4, 1.8T S Line Saloon 4d 1781cc (2004), rn04thk, climate control, alloy wheels, remote locking, height adjustable driver's seat, height adjustable steering wheel, front & side airbags. balck metallic, 88600 miles, £10995, E-SSURED Cars UK, Broadstairs, 0845 6447751 (TRADE)

A4, 1.9tdi 130 se estate, 2003, blue m with grey cloth, 67000 miles, £8950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

CADILLAC

CTS, cts 3.6 sport luxury v6, 2005, 22379 miles, £12950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

CHEVROLET

AVEO, LT, hu58xgc, 15'' alloys, silver, 1900 miles, £8995, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

AVEO, 2008, abs air conditioning anti theft protection cd player central locking passenger airbag power steering radio tiltable steering wheel wiper rear window, poly silver, 25 miles, £8145, FGBarnes, Maidstone, 01622 755531 (TRADE)

KALOS, SX 5dr, cv07lke, central locking, immobiliser, power steering, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, abs, cd player, metallic paintwork, colour coded body, cloth upholstery, alloy wheels, aluminium silver, 3000 miles, £5995, Automatically Ray Morris (Bexleyheath), Bexleyheath, 01322 524 680 (TRADE)

CITROEN

C3, 1.4i SX 5dr, 2005, 1.4i sx 5dr hatch, red, 20000 miles, £5495, Wilmoths Ashford, Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

C3, 1.4 HDi Rhythm 5dr, 2008, 1.4 hdi rhythm 5dr diesel hatch, blue, 5000 miles, £8995, Barretts Citroen, Canterbury, 0845 3709768 (TRADE)

C3, 1.6i 16V Exclusive 5dr Sensodrive, 2005, 1.6i 16v exclusive 5dr sensodrive hatch, blue, 25780 miles, £6495, Barretts Citroen, Canterbury, 0845 3709768 (TRADE)

C3, 1.4i 16V Cachet 5dr, 2008, 1.4i 16v cachet 5dr hatch special edition, blue, 5000 miles, £8995, Barretts Citroen, Canterbury, 0845 3709768 (TRADE)

FIAT

PUNTO, Sporting 16v 3dr, gj03ygr, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, multiple airbags, colour coded body, rear wash/wipe, electric windows, cd player, stereo, 14'' alloys, yellow, 49000 miles, £2999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

PUNTO, Active 3dr, wp02ocb, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, rear wash/wipe, radio, black, 59000 miles, £2499, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

FORD

FIESTA, LX 16v 3dr, 6566079, remote central locking, remote alarm, rear wash/wipe, radio, twin air bags, power steering, adjustable steering column, blue, 30500 miles, £3995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

FIESTA, Finesse 16v 3dr, ef04 kwv, power steering, abs, cd player, cloth upholstery, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, height adjustable seat, central locking, silver, 15000 miles, £4395, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

FIESTA, LX 16v 5dr, ax52 gtz, air conditioning, cd player, radio, electric front windows, rremote alarm, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, red, 25700 miles, £3995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

MAZDA

MAZDA 6, Ts 5dr, ao06bxw, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, power steering, abs, multiple airbags, colour coded body, front fog lamps, rear wash/wipe, cd player, electric front windows, electric mirrors, alloy wheels, red, 14000 miles, £7995, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

MAZDA 6, Ts 5dr, oy07okh, 15'' alloys, blue, 13000 miles, £9495, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

PEUGEOT

307, S Coupe Cabriolet, 5055314, 16'' alloys, blue, 5000 miles, £10995, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

307, S 5dr, eg07cdo, folding rear seats, height adjustable seat, cloth upholstery, central locking, immobiliser, electric front windows, electric mirrors, air conditioning, cd player, alloy wheels, black, 6000 miles, £7995, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

307, S Coupe Cabriolet Auto, 6733079, air conditioning, climate control, traction control, trip computer, power steering, abs, twin air bags, cd player, radio, electric windows, electric mirrors, adjustable steering column, colour coded interior, height adjustable seat, sports seats, power hood, front fog lamps, remote central locking, remote alarm, alloy wheels, silver, 1700 miles, £10995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

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SUPRA, [no trim], 1992, very good condition, reguraly serviced, mechanic owner, red, 180000 miles, £1800, 07523706228 (PRIVATE)

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SKODA	FABIA CLASSIC 5DR HATCH	1.2 12v 64 BHP (PETROL)	GL55KHY	JANUARY '06	57924	DYNAMIC BLUE	£4,990.00
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SKODA	FABIA CLASSIC 5DR HATCH	1.4 MPI 68 BHP (PETROL)	OU51XGX	NOVEMBER '01	46088	DARK BLUE	£3,490.00
SKODA	FABIA ELEGANCE 5DR HATCH	1.4 16v 100 BHP (PETROL)	KF53SVU	SEPTEMBER '03	67647	BLACK MAGIC	£3,960.00
SKODA	FABIA 1 5DR HATCH	1.2 6v 60 BHP (PETROL)	GD08FME	JULY '08	TBA	STORM BLUE	£6,990.00
SKODA	FABIA 1 5DR HATCH	1.2 12v 70 BHP (PETROL)	GJ57WBU	SEPTEMBER '07		STORM BLUE	£6,990.00
SKODA	FABIA 1 5DR HATCH	1.4 TDi 70 BHP (DIESEL)	GD08FMJ	JULY '08	TBA	BLACK MAGIC	£8,290.00
SKODA	FABIA 1 5DR HATCH	1.4 TDi 70 BHP (DIESEL)	GD08FMK	JULY '08	TBA	CAPPUCCINO BEIGE	£8,290.00
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SKODA	FABIA 2 5DR HATCH	1.9 TDi 105 BHP (DIESEL)	GJ58SYS	SEPTEMBER '08	TBA	SATIN GREY	£10,490.00
SKODA	FABIA 2 5DR HATCH	1.9 TDi 105 BHP (DIESEL)	GJ58SYR	SEPTEMBER '08	TBA	CAPPUCCINO BEIGE	£10,490.00
SKODA	FABIA 3 5DR HATCH	1.9 TDi 105 BHP (DIESEL)	GJ58SYP	SEPTEMBER '08	TBA	BLACK MAGIC	£11,490.00
SKODA	FABIA 3 5DR HATCH	1.9 TDi 105 BHP (DIESEL)	GF58KBV	JANUARY '09		ANTHRACITE GREY	£11,990.00
SKODA	FABIA SPORT 5DR HATCH	1.4 TDi 80 BHP (DIESEL)	GF58KBU J	ANUARY '09		BRILLIANT SILVER	£11,190.00
SKODA	FABIA AMBIENTE 5DR ESTATE	1.4 TDi 80 BHP (DIESEL)	GK56USW	SEPTEMBER '06	43278	STORM BLUE	£6,490.00
SKODA	FABIA AMBIENTE 5DR ESTATE	1.9 TDi 100 BHP (DIESEL)	GF06ZWS	JUNE '06		21710 GRAPHITE GREY	£6,990.00
SKODA	FABIA 2 5DR ESTATE	1.4 16v 85 BHP (PETROL)	GJ08VBF	MARCH '08	TBA	STORM BLUE	£8,980.00
SKODA	FABIA 2 5DR ESTATE	1.6 16v AUTO (PETROL)	GK58NMY	SEPTEMBER '08	TBA	CAPPUCCINO BEIGE	£10,990.00
SKODA	FABIA 2 5DR ESTATE	1.4 TDi 80 BHP (DIESEL)	GF58AYP	SEPTEMBER '08	TBA	CORRIDA RED	£9,990.00
SKODA	ROOMSTER LEVEL 2 5DR MPV	1.4 TDi 80 BHP (DIESEL)	GJ07VXR	MARCH '07	11794	SATIN GREY	£8,290.00
SKODA	ROOMSTER LEVEL 3 5DR MPV	1.4 TDi 80 BHP (DIESEL)	GK58NNC	SEPTEMBER '08	TBA	ANTHRACITE GREY	£10,990.00
SKODA	OCTAVIA GLXI 5DR HATCH	2.0 MPI (PETROL)	X735OBW	OCTOBER '00	72592	PETROL GREEN	£2,990.00
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SKODA	OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 5DR HATCH	1.9 TDi 105 BHP (DIESEL)	KJ08DYT	AUGUST '08	TBA SATIN	GREY	£10,290.00
SKODA	OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 5DR HATCH	1.9 TDi DSG (DIESEL)	VU05TZJ	MARCH '05	36875	DIAMOND SILVER	£6,990.00
SKODA	OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 5DR HATCH	1.9 TDi DSG (DIESEL)	GL07CFJ	JUNE '07	13396	CAPPUCCINO BEIGE	£10,290.00
SKODA	OCTAVIA ELEGANCE 5DR HATCH	1.6 FSi 105 BHP (PETROL)	GK56VEF	SEPTEMBER '06	59559	CANDY WHITE	£6,790.00
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SKODA	OCTAVIA ELEGANCE 5DR HATCH	2.0 TDi 140 BHP (DIESEL)	HT54LSV	FEBRUARY '05	92398	STORM BLUE	£5,490.00
SKODA	OCTAVIA VRS 5DR HATCH	1.8 20v 180 BHP (PETROL)	GK02GZZ	MARCH '02	84134	DIAMOND SILVER	£4,490.00
SKODA	OCTAVIA VRS 5DR HATCH	2.0 TDi 170 BHP (DIESEL)	GF57HKO	OCTOBER '07	3751	CORRIDA RED	£14,990.00
SKODA	OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 5DR ESTATE	2.0 TDi 140 BHP (DIESEL)	GK58NNL	SEPTEMBER '08	TBA	CORRIDA RED	£14,490.00
SKODA	OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 5DR ESTATE	2.0 TDi DSG (DIESEL)	GJ08VAV	MARCH '08	TBA	STORM BLUE	£13,690.00
SKODA	OCTAVIA L&K 5DR ESTATE	2.0 FSi AUTO (PETROL)	GL08XRC	JULY '08	TBA	ISLAND GREEN	£15,820.00
SKODA	OCTAVIA L&K 5DR ESTATE	2.0 TDi DSG (DIESEL)	GJ08YLX	MARCH '08	TBA	BRILLIANT SILVER	£17,270.00
SKODA	OCTAVIA 4x4 SCOUT 5DR ESTATE	2.0 TDi 140 BHP (DIESEL)	GL08XPT	JULY '08	9974	BRILLIANT SILVER	£15,990.00
SKODA	SUPERB COMFORT 4DR SALOON	1.9 TDi 130 BHP (DIESEL)	GU52WCA	DECEMBER '02	59701	CANADIAN GREEN	£5,490.00
RENAULT	MEGANE EXPRE 5DR HATCH	1.6 16v AUTO (PETROL)	AU05YHN	APRIL '05	31984	RED	£3,990.00
NISSAN	MICRA SE	1.2 (PETROL)	LS03EBZ	MAY '03	31600	SILVER MET	£3,390.00

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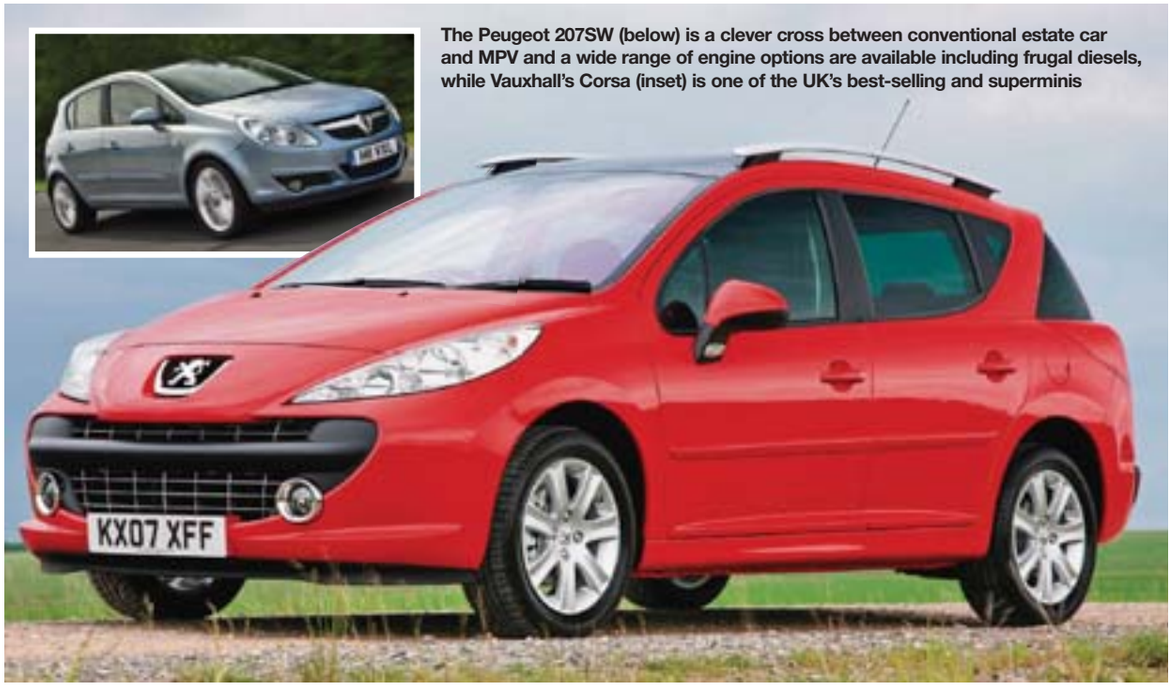
- breakdown cover.

Adaptations and wheelchair accessible vehicles are also available.

Some cars may be suited to particular requirements more than others. Cars vary considerably in measurements. Seat height, door-opening angle and storage space for wheelchairs and equipment can all make the difference between a car that is suitable and a car that is neither enjoyable nor comfortable to drive.

Many customers choose automatic transmission – speak to your dealer about the various transmission options available.



The Peugeot 207SW (below) is a clever cross between conventional estate car and MPV and a wide range of engine options are available including frugal diesels, while Vauxhall's Corsa (inset) is one of the UK's best-selling and superminis

MOTABILITY? CHOOSE VAUXHALL

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- ABS
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Corsa
From £46.75 FWR
- Driver's and front passenger's dual-stage airbags
- ABS
- CD player/stereo radio
- Speed-sensitive power-assisted steering

Vectra Exclusiv 1.9 CDTi (120PS) 5dr Hatchback
From Nil Advance Payment
- Air conditioning
- Electrically adjustable/ heated door mirrors
- 16 inch structure wheels
- Cruise control

Astra
From Nil Advance Payment
- Driver's and front passenger's front seat side-impact airbags
- Electrically operated front windows
- ABS
- CD player/stereo radio

Motability
The leading car scheme for disabled people

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Mon-Fri 08:30 - 18:00
Sat 08:30 - 17:30
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VAUXHALL

Official Government Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 Emissions (g/km): Vauxhall Range: urban 12.7 (22.3) - 51.4 (5.5), extra-urban 25.4 (11.1) - 74.3 (3.8), combined 18.6 (15.2) - 62.8 (4.5), CO_2 Emissions 119 - 364 g/km.

Under the Motability New Car Contract Hire Scheme, a registered disabled driver can get the use of a brand new Vauxhall for 3 years by paying an Advance Payment (if applicable) and the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance each month. Advance payments will vary according to model selected. Offer valid between 01.01.09 and 31.03.09 to qualify you must be in receipt of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living allowance, which will be taken in lieu of the monthly rental. Full written details, including terms and conditions, are available on request. The facilities offered are for the hire (bailment) of goods. The Motability New Car Contract Hire Scheme is administered by Motability Operations, City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HB. Please note: all vehicles available on the Motability Contract Hire scheme are supplied with metallic/pearlescent paint. (Vaux66256)

The Skoda Roomster offers the best of both worlds. It's car-like in the front, but spacious like your living room in the back, with easier access for people with mobility problems

The all-new sixth generation VW Golf is a major step forward in the family hatchback market at a time when many car buyers are downsizing in the interests of cutting their motoring bills

How the scheme works

BUYING and adapting a car for a disabled driver can be expensive.

The Motability Scheme – run by the non-profit making independent organisation Motability – gives disabled people the opportunity to own or lease a car at an affordable price.

The scheme helps with leasing or buying a car if you receive the War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement or the higher rate of the mobility component of Disability Living Allowance.

Even if you don't drive, you can apply for a car as a passenger and propose two other people as your drivers.

You can also apply for a car on behalf of a child aged three or over, who is entitled to the mobility component of Disability Living Allowance.

Several finance options are available:

- Contract hire – you can lease a new car from a Motability accredited dealer for at least three years if you have 12 months or more of your Disability Living Allowance 'award' remaining. If your award is not renewed during the full length of your chosen scheme, your car will need to be returned. At the end of the period, the car is returned to Motability Operations.

Ninety-five per cent of Motability customers choose contract hire which offers:

- A new car of their choice from more than 4,000 every three years
- Insurance and personal accident cover
- Servicing and maintenance
- Full breakdown assistance from RAC
- Free replacement tyres fitted by Kwik-Fit
- Window or windscreen replacement at no extra cost.
- Hire purchase – enables you to buy the car you want and this can be a new or used car. You are responsible for negotiating the purchase price with the dealer and arranging and paying for comprehensive insurance, breakdown recovery, your car tax disc, servicing and repairs.

You can afford a brand-new Volkswagen with a higher rate mobility allowance.

Polo Match 1.2 70 PS 5-door with nil advance payment.

Standard specification includes: 'Charade' alloys, iPod preparation, air conditioning, electric windows and fog lights.

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Motability
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Motorline Volkswagen

Dowding Way, Tunbridge Wells. Telephone: 01892 616212.
www.motorline.volkswagen.co.uk

For more information on eligibility call 0800 953 4002, or visit www.motability.co.uk

Offer available across all Polo Match 1.2 60 & 70 PS, and all Polo Match 1.4 80 PS Automatic, 3-door model with metallic paint until March 31st, 2009. Official fuel consumption for the Polo range in mpg (litres/100km): urban 49.6 (5.7) – 27.2 (10.4); extra urban 68.9 (4.1) – 47.1 (6.1); combined 61.4 (4.6) – 37.2 (7.7). CO_2 emissions: 185 – 124g/km.

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Motability

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Motability

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email: sherlodgew@btconnect.com
website: www.sherlodgegarage.skoda.co.uk

Adaptations proving popular

APPLICATIONS for cars with adaptations on the Motability Scheme have soared over the last few years.

The rise followed changes to include the most popular adaptations within the Motability car lease at no extra cost; under previous arrangements the most popular adaptation, hand controls, would have cost more than £300.

Many other adaptations are available at more affordable levels.

A Motability spokesman said: "Making the Motability Scheme more affordable for those who have the greatest mobility requirements is a major achievement.

"As well as better value adaptations, customers will find that a selection of Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles (WAVs) are now available with no advance payment.

"This is a key part of a key drive to make the scheme more accessible for those who need adapted or 'drive from' wheelchair cars."

Increased dedicated training for dealers is also available; seminars for car dealers now include helping them manage requests for adaptations as part of everyday transactions.

The spokesman added: "The Motability Scheme now offers over 84 per cent of all adaptations required by our customers and these are available to order at the same time as choosing a new car. One easy process allows customers to receive their new car ready fitted with the required adaptations and there are no additional hold ups to getting on the road."

Further extensive adaptations are available at more affordable rates and manufacturer-fitted adaptations are an option when ordering a new car.

Vauxhall's seven-seat Zafira (inset) is the market leading 'midi' MPV model in the UK and Seat's sporty looking Altea (right) is proof that MPVs don't have to be dull

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Vectra Exclusiv 1.9 CDTi (120PS) 5dr Hatchback
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- Electrically adjustable/heated door mirrors
- 16 inch structure wheels
- Cruise control

Astra
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VAUXHALL

Official Government Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 Emissions (g/km): Vauxhall Range: urban 12.7 (22.3) - 51.4 (5.5), extra-urban 25.4 (11.1) - 74.3 (3.8), combined 18.6 (15.2) - 62.8 (4.5), CO_2 Emissions 119 - 345 g/km.

Under the Motability New Car Contract Hire Scheme, a registered disabled driver can get the use of a brand new Vauxhall for 3 years by paying an Advance Payment (if applicable) and the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance each month. Advance payments will vary according to model selected. Offer valid between 01.01.09 and 31.03.09. To qualify you must be in receipt of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living allowance, which will be taken in lieu of the monthly rental. Full written details, including terms and conditions, are available on request. The facilities offered are for the hire (bailment) of goods. The Motability New Car Contract Hire Scheme is administered by Motability Operations, City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HB. Please note: all vehicles available on the Motability Contract Hire scheme are supplied with metallic/pearlescent paint. (Vaux64972)

Motability can help fund needy cases

MOTABILITY can sometimes offer financial help towards the cost of a suitable car, adaptations, driving lessons or a Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle.

During 2007-08, the scheme awarded grants of more than £18 million to help some 5,000 customers with their mobility needs. There are several sources:

- Charitable Grants

Funding for charitable grants comes from Motability's fund-raising activities and the Motability Tenth Anniversary Trust, to provide help towards:

1) advance payments on standard production cars.
2) adaptations: such as hand controls, swivel seats, wheelchair hoists.
3) driving lessons: customers aged between 16-24, and in receipt of the higher rate mobility component may be eligible for help towards the cost of driving lessons.

- Government Grants

Motability also administers funds on behalf of the Government for people who need a heavily adapted car, often a Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle. There are three possible sources:

1) The Specialised Vehicles Fund: for people who need a Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle, either as a driver or passenger.
2) War Pensioners: people receiving the War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement and qualifying for a Motability car, may be eligible for a grant from the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency, based on medical records.

If this requires a vehicle or adaptations costing more than the standard grants available, an application can be made to Motability for help.

3) Ex-Invalid Vehicle Service Holders: Motability also deals with applications from customers who previously drove a three-wheeled, blue 'trike', or other Government vehicle.

THESE TWO FIVE-DOOR SMALL CARS ARE ROOMY AND CHEAP TO RUN

The Hyundai i10 (left) is one of the most frugal city cars on the road, but is comfortable, easy to drive and comes with air-conditioning as standard, while Daihatsu's Sirion is so spacious within its compact dimensions that it is almost worth labelling as an MPV

PEUGEOT

Motability
The leading car scheme for disabled people

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207 S
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• ABS WITH EBFD AND EBA
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• FRONT FOG LIGHTS • RADIO/CD PLAYER

308 URBAN
1.4 VTi 95
NIL ADVANCE PAYMENT*

• AVAILABLE IN 3 DOOR OR 5 DOOR
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THE OFFICIAL FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES IN MPG (L/100KM) AND CO_2 EMISSIONS (G/KM) FOR THE 107 RANGE ARE: URBAN 51.3 (5.5), EXTRA URBAN 68.8 (4.1), COMBINED 61.4 (4.6) AND CO_2 109 (G/KM) **FOR THE 207 RANGE ARE:** URBAN 28.2-49.6 (10.0-5.7), EXTRA URBAN 48.7-76.3 (5.8-3.7), COMBINED 39.2-64.2 (7.2-4.5) AND CO_2 117-173 (G/KM) **AND FOR THE 308 RANGE ARE:** URBAN 24.8-49.5 (11.4-5.7), EXTRA URBAN 47.1-74.3 (6.0-3.8), COMBINED 35.8-62.8 (7.9-4.4) AND CO_2 120-188 (G/KM).

*Nil advance payment subject to availability and on selected 107, 207 and 308 models only. Information and offers correct at time of going to press, however Peugeot Motor Company PLC reserve the right to change these at any time and without notice. Models shown are for illustrative purposes only. For full terms and conditions, please contact the Peugeot Motability line on 0845 945 5466. Calls may be recorded for training purposes.

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Big guns meet to address the skills shortage

KENT bosses may be under siege from the recession, but they still have the problem of the skills shortage in the county near the top of their agenda.

At the latest forum chaired by the Kent and Medway Lifelong Learning Network, employers from engineering, manufacturing and the built-environment sectors met with education providers to try and tackle the problem.

Among those attending were representatives from Pfizer, E.ON, National Grid, Delphi Diesel Systems, Dover Harbour Board, De La Rue, Masell, Dennes and Wates Construction.

They agreed that given the current shortage of specific higher level skills, 'growing your own' through a mix of flexible work-based learning and more traditional study provides a practical solution to a growing problem.

Meantime, Greenwich University's School of Engineering presented a new qualification framework that allows workers to count skills gained at work towards a degree. It helps those with an Advanced Apprenticeship or equivalent level qualification progress towards a degree.

Workers can achieve the award by attending university as well as gaining credit for skills gained at work. It is flexible and allows employers to customise to meet specific needs.

Geoff Anderson, spokesman for Kent and Medway Lifelong Learning Network, said: "The Kent engineering, manufacturing and built-environment sectors have been galvanised into action to develop a framework that will provide opportunities for local workers to develop their skills in a more practical, flexible work-related way."

Loans get cold shoulder

Red tape putting businesses off Government scheme

By **TONY PATEY**
tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

SMALL businesses in Kent are giving the Government's much-lauded £1 billion loan guarantee scheme the elbow because it's too complicated and they can't spare time to cut through the red tape.

That's the general feeling from the county's business organisations following reports that during the month after it was launched the scheme has lent only about £12 million to small companies.

David Foley, chief executive of Thanet and East Kent Chamber of Commerce, said small businesses were "confused" about the financial situation, and they didn't have the resources to plough through the scheme.

He said that even if firms had the sympathetic support of local bank managers, who obviously knew the businesses, directions from the banks' head offices often wouldn't let managers go ahead with help.

Mr Foley said: "It is not filtering down to small businesses."

Caroline Chambers, manager at Channel Chamber of Commerce said the scheme was "too long and too complicated" and business people were put off by that and the jargon.

Jo James, chief executive of Kent Invicta Chamber, said: "The major flaw with this scheme is communication. It appears central banks know about the scheme but the right information is not going down to the grass roots level.

CONFUSION: David Foley says the loan guarantee scheme is too complicated

"Sometimes the conditions are difficult for companies to meet which makes it more imperative that local banking staff know the criteria for the financial product on offer."

The £12 million figure came from research by the Financial Times on the day the national British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) said its latest Monthly Business Survey showed deteriorating relationships with local bank managers, major disappointment with the Government's VAT cut, and an pessimism on turnover prospects.

BCC said that with cash-flow a serious problem, more than a quarter of businesses will reduce working hours in the next three months.

Half of businesses expected their turnover to fall up to 50 per cent over the next three months and only nearly a half said their local bank manager understood their business needs and tried to accommodate them.

Steve Hughes, BCC's economic adviser, said: "Confidence in the economy is non-existent, and this requires an incisive response from government.

"When Alastair Darling gives his Budget in April, it must include measures to ease cash-flow difficulties and promote the retention of jobs. Cutting National Insurance contributions, freezing the minimum wage and slashing business rates would all help."

A Department for Business spokesman said: "In the current economic climate we know that some companies are struggling to secure the finance they need.

"The Government has taken steps to help to businesses facing these difficulties – giving businesses more time to pay their tax bills and taking action to support bank lending and improve access to credit.

"As the Chancellor has said, the new support for banks is conditional on additional lending from banks for all business."

He said following the launch of the loan guarantee scheme "banks have received hundreds of enquiries and the scheme has already started to disburse funds. We will report more fully on its progress shortly."

He added: "Additionally, the Working Capital Scheme to support up to £20 billion of bank lending is due to go live at the beginning of March."

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Signs of life in housing market

By **TONY PATEY**
tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

SPRING is about to blossom – and there is brighter news in the county which might, just might, mean green shoots on the economic front.

A leading independent property consultancy says the number of potential buyers viewing rural properties for sale across the south of England increased by 25 per cent in January, compared with the same month in 2008.

Andrew Shirley, head of rural property research at Knight Frank, said: "Although it is too early to say this marks the end of the market downturn, it is positive news."

The news comes after the Moat housing association group linked to the multi-million pound regeneration of Stanhope in Ashford said its January sales in the South East increased by a massive half.

And this week the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors said property sales may pick up in the next few months because lower house prices have prompted renewed interest.

"Our suspicion is that this improvement in activity levels is likely to be sustained over the coming months; mortgage approvals could climb above 35,000 per month on the back of the higher level of buyer interest," said Simon Rubinsohn, RICS chief economist.

But, he added: "By no means does this small pick-up in transactions represent a move back to a more orderly housing market."

Mr Shirley said: "A combination of factors is encouraging more people to consider buying.

"House prices have fallen substantially as vendors become more realistic, interest rates on cash deposits are risible and there are some attractive mortgage deals available for those with reasonable deposits.

"If anybody is thinking of buying, now is certainly the time to start looking.

"We have seen the biggest increase in activity in the south of England. This suggests those areas favoured by City workers which were hit hardest by the banking collapse last year, are starting to recover first.

"Our country house department, which deals with properties worth over £2 million, has seen viewings rise the most – 80 per cent compared with last January.

"Buyers recognise that there is a finite supply of this type of house and they risk missing out on their dream property if they stay out of the market too long. This sector of the market also appeals to international buyers who have benefited hugely from the collapse in sterling."

Rupert Sweeting, head of the firm's country department, said: "Compared with the run-up to Christmas, there has been a transformation in activity since the start of the New Year.

"We are seeing international buyers take advantage of the favourable euro/sterling exchange that, together with the reduction in house prices, presents those buyers with opportunities to purchase a property 40 per cent cheaper than last year.

"Furthermore, those who have sold property and had put their money on deposit producing six per cent or so are now getting no return. Their interest was enabling them to rent a decent house, but that rental is now eating into their capital.

"Now they want to buy 'bricks and mortar' and many have told us they feel that it offers a better return than the stock market or banks.

"No-one rings the bell of the bottom or top of the market but it feels like there should be at least some chimes ringing out."

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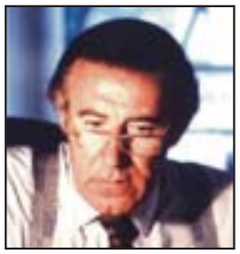

BIG TALK: Kent 2020 Vision speakers (l-r) Andrew Neil, Geoff Burch and Kriss Akabusi

Visionary speakers booked

TOP speakers have been lined up for what is becoming one of the county's leading annual business exhibitions and conferences – Kent 2020 Vision '09.

It's being held at the Kent County Showground, Detling, on April 2 from 8am to 5pm, and is being run by Business Link. Last year there were a record number of exhibitors – more than 350 – and 3,700 visitors.

Keynote speakers include publisher and broadcaster Andrew Neil and Geoff Burch, recently seen on BBC2's All Over the Shop, in which he offers advice to small businesses in trouble. He is considered to be one of Europe's most exciting business speakers and writers.

Olympic star Kriss Akabusi will also be making a return to Kent as the key speaker at the Kent 2020 Business Dinner, sponsored by Kent County Council, and leading travel commentator Simon Calder will be speaking at the event's breakfast.

Tony Buddin, head of marketing at Business Link, said: "Even if you are a first-time exhibitor, we make it as simple as possible with our advice and free training."

• To book your free place as a delegate at Kent 2020 or to book a stand visit www.kent2020.co.uk or call 01732 878555.

Plan to succeed or don't plan and fail...

When everyone is talking of the 'difficult times ahead' it is all too easy to get carried along with the worry factor of whether your business is waiting for the big bang. Companies start looking for the problems when really they need to keep on doing what they always have done, but make sure they are doing it right.

There is of course scope to review your current expenditure and make sure that all your profits are being spent wisely without creating the 'knee jerk reaction'. A few simple tips from RAP Office Contracts suggest that if you are leasing your office and looking to relocate then take a look at their checklist (available from their website) to make sure you have considered all the options.

A good provider for relocating your company will make the whole process as stress free as possible, allowing the move to happen and your staff to continue their work in the new offices. Planning ahead with RAP will ensure that if your 'new offices' need to be altered to accommodate your staff enabling you to work better they will programme the refurbishment to complete on time, ready for the move. The whole process will be fully project managed.

Alternatively if your office simply needs a makeover and better space planning to accommodate expansion without moving anywhere, then CAD drawings can help you visualise any new ideas and needs. A very easy way to accommodate new staff or company mergers is by changing to more slimline furniture or 'hot desking' solutions – large wide desks are often just not used and better furniture solutions are now much more up to date. After all, size isn't everything- but investing wisely in your business to operate efficiently is.

A recent example from RAP is when they relocated approx 66 staff and refurbished an office for their client AEG from central London to the Millennium Dome. The full case study is available on RAP's website with an interactive tour showing the CAD design and the pictures of how the space planning and fit out enabled this client to accommodate their staff into quite a confined area. This successful money saving objective impressed the client to such a degree that they engaged RAP to move a second office from Canary Wharf to America Street utilising their service of relocation and refurbishment.

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RIGHT STEPS: Amanda Finn says employees must be given the choice to work beyond the age of retirement

Retirement still a grey area

By **AMANDA FINN**
Employment specialist at Gullands solicitors of Maidstone

A RULING from the European courts which could affect the retirement age is being eagerly awaited.

When the Government implemented the European Directive on age discrimination it set a default retirement age of 65.

The Age Discrimination Act made it clear that any retirement ages below that would struggle to be justified. This default age is currently being challenged in the European courts.

Much of the commentary on the legislation focused on what would and would not be discrimination. But employers should note that it is no longer the case that you just present the card and leaving present on the final day when your employees leave due to retirement.

The legislation sets out procedures that need to be complied with to prevent the possibility of claims following the retirement party.

Between one year and six months before the date of retirement, the employer must notify the employee of their right to request to continue working beyond the retirement age.

This is an ongoing duty up to two weeks prior to retirement and failure to comply is an automatic unfair dismissal.

Assuming that you have complied, the employee then has between six months and three months prior to retirement to put the request in. If the employer fails to comply within the first time window the employee can submit their request any time prior to retirement – even on the final day.

If the request is submitted then the procedure to be followed is pretty much a mirror of the three-step statutory grievance procedure – send a letter inviting the employee to a meeting at which the employee has the right to be accompanied; have the meeting and confirm the outcome of the meeting in a letter also informing the employee about their right of appeal.

All employers should make sure that someone in their organisation has responsibility for reviewing the staff demographics so that when the year countdown begins none of these deadlines are missed.

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Call for law to protect rights of agency staff

By **TONY PATEY**
tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

UNION leaders are calling for new European laws to protect agency workers after 850 were given a week's notice just one hour before the end of their shift at a car plant.

The redundancies came soon after the Government launched a £1 million campaign to make sure agency workers know their rights.

The drive is also to help employers know their responsibilities. A poster campaign will feature in public places, online and in local press, encouraging workers to make sure they know their rights.

Business minister Pat McFadden is writing to more than 13,000 employment agencies to outline ways of making sure they comply with the law.

This ties in with the Employment Agency Standards inspectorate, which recently doubled in size and extended its investigative powers.

Mr McFadden said: "Employment agencies need to make sure they play by the rules and don't short-change their staff. An economic downturn should not be an excuse to deny people their rights to work.

"This campaign will help agency workers know their rights and help employers know their responsibilities".

Katja Hall, director of employment policy at the CBI said: "We welcome this positive campaign to bolster the awareness of employment rights among both agencies and workers.

"Increasing people's knowledge is an important first step in ensuring that workers access the rights to which they are entitled."

TUC General Secretary Brendan Barber said: "Most agencies act within the law, but some of their workers miss out on the most basic employment rights, and are among the most vulnerable in the whole workforce.

"This is why we welcome the Government's plans to make sure agency workers know their rights and to ensure more effective enforcement of their rights."

Kevin Green, chief executive of the Recruitment and Employment Confederation said: "The vast majority of agencies are working hard to keep people in work in a challenging environment. Agency workers deserve to have their rights respected."

Information on agency workers' rights can be accessed via DirectGov, and any workers who think they are not getting a fair deal can contact the Employment Agency Standards inspectorate on 0845 955 5105.

Business Link Kent also gives out information on how recruiters can ensure compliance with the law.

Brush up on employment law with an interactive workshop

THREE interactive workshops aimed at giving employers a thorough understanding of today's employment law are being presented by regional law firm Furley Page in association with Kent Invicta Chamber.

The workshops are at the Marriott Tudor Park Hotel and Country Club, Maidstone, and are on March 5, March 19 and April 2.

Employment law changes - how will the new code of practice affect you?
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Accidents will happen

Statistics provoke health and safety shake-up

By TONY PATEY
tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

THREE people died and a total of 1,830 suffered major injury as a result of a slip, trip or fall in the workplace in the South East last year.

A further 3,473 sustained injuries that kept them off work for three days or more.

These shocking statistics have prompted the launch of an awareness raising campaign by the Health and Safety Executive.

The second phase of the Shattered Lives campaign was launched recently to highlight the devastating consequences of slips, trips and falls in the workplace and to encourage employers to take action in consultation with their employees.

Marcia Davies, HSE head of the injury reduction programme said: "People often view slips, trips and falls as trivial incidents, even comical but they are no joke to those who suffer major injuries, a lifetime of disability, time off work and in the worst cases death.

Awareness

"We want to raise awareness of how these incidents can happen and how they can be easily avoided by taking common sense actions and precautions at no or little cost. If you spot a hazard in your workplace deal with it, don't assume that somebody else will.

"The lives of workers and their families are shattered by the serious consequences of these types of accidents. Simple measures introduced by businesses can make a positive difference to safety in the workplace."

They can also stop companies from having to face potentially expensive compensation claims.

Fatalities and serious injuries arising from slips, trips and fall incidents cost British society an estimated £700 million last year.

The campaign is targeted at seven sectors where there is a prevalence of such injuries: food retail, catering and hospitality, food and drink manufacturing, building and plant maintenance, construction, healthcare and education, although the risks can occur in any workplace.

To help businesses take preventive action the HSE launched STEP – an interactive learning package that provides practical guidance to help users tackle slips, trips and falls in their workplace.

• ***The tool is free and can be accessed online at http://www.hse.gov.uk/slips/step/index.htm.***

MAJOR AND OVER THREE-DAY INJURIES TO EMPLOYEES AS A RESULT OF SLIP/TRIP OR FALL

GROUPS: 1) Slip or trip **2)** High fall **3)** Low fall **4)** Fall from unknown height **5)** Total

BOROUGH/DISTRICT	1	2	3	4	5
Ashford Borough Council	58	3	12	-	73
Canterbury City Council	8	11	10	1	93
Dartford Borough Council	71	1	15	-	87
Dover District Council	62	1	10	2	75
Gravesham Borough Council	44	3	5	1	53
Maidstone Borough Council	92	10	12	3	117
Sevenoaks District Council	42	3	4	1	50
Shepway District Council	38	-	13	1	52
Swale Borough Council	100	3	12	1	116
Thanet District Council	54	1	13	1	69
Tonbridge & Malling Boro' Council	89	2	15	2	108
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	48	1	9	1	59
Medway Towns Unitary Authority	145	1	7	2	155

Holiday entitlement dilemma

A NEW European court ruling says that workers are entitled to accrue holiday time while on sick leave. This could spell problems for Kent firms, ***writes Nicole Tovey.***

Recession-battered employers have been dealt yet another blow by Europe – this time in the long-awaited ruling in the case of Stringer v HM Revenue and Customs.

The decision, which now clarifies the law after several years of confusion, confirms that employees are entitled to accrue all of their statutory holiday entitlement while on sick leave regardless of duration.

Sick leave must either be carried forward to when the employee returns to work or they must be paid in-lieu of holiday if their employment terminates.

The UK had argued that employees on sick leave should not be entitled to paid holiday, as they are not actually working and so there is no actual work for them to take leave from.

But the European Court of Justice distinguished between holiday entitlement and sick leave, stating that one type of leave cannot and does not displace the other.

The purpose of sick leave is to enable a worker to recover from an illness, whereas paid annual leave under the Working Time Directive allows for a period of rest and enjoyment.

The case will now return to the House of Lords which will have to consider the decision and provide guidance as to how it should be interpreted into UK law.

What are the implications for Kent employers? Under the Working time Regulations 1998, full-time employees are entitled to 24 days paid leave each year and public holidays count towards their total entitlement.

From April 1 this will be extended to 28 days paid leave. Those working part-time are entitled to the same level of holiday pro rata and employees can start building up holiday as soon as they start work

The court's decision is likely to have serious implications for employers in Kent, who may now face tribunal claims from employees seeking to carry leave over.

Those presently on sick leave may also request holiday pay for the current leave year, in order to help with their financial situation.

It has been left to member states to decide whether an employee can actually take leave or accrue it during a period of sick leave and any claims are likely to be stayed pending the House of Lords ruling.

• ***Nicole Tovey is a solicitor in the employment and litigation team at the Tunbridge Wells office of solicitors Buss Murton.***

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- Employment Law Update for 2009
  Thursday 5th March 2009
- Investigating Discipline and Grievances in the Workplace
  Thursday 19th March 2009
- Managing Sickness Absence
  Thursday 2nd April 2009

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Cost (inc breakfast): £48 to members, £60 to non-members

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Bill Ferris

Chatham Historic Dockyard is very much a living and working museum. But every inch exudes an atmosphere which has built up over hundreds of years. It's what the people who work there call the "bug" – a feeling of excitement, expectancy and being part of history. For 400 years the dockyard and naval base site played a crucial role in supporting the British Navy – and, therefore, the development of the Empire and the Commonwealth. The end of the Cold War led to its closure in 1984. Now in the site trust's 25th year it boasts a mixed site, not just a museum with historic buildings and structures, but also a growing residential and small business community. KOS Media business editor Tony Patey spoke to CHD Trust chief executive Bill Ferris.

'Dockyard on its way back to being hub of the community'

Q *You would like World Heritage Site status for the dockyard, what would that include?*

A Not only the site, but also all the defences associated with the dockyard, such as Fort Amherst and Upnor Castle. We are ready to go with conservation management plans in place and the process has been extended to get the other sites out of our ownership.

The only fly in the ointment, as such, is that Unesco says the western world has many such sites already, and the Third World hasn't, although it does have important sites. So we have to slow down on the western allocation. The Government has agreed to one per year. So we're hoping we can go for 2011-12.

Q *What would it mean for the site?*

A It is all about raising the image and creating an identity for the city of Medway. It's about the high-quality things we have here which sadly sometimes the public beyond Kent doesn't always recognise.

Next year we will have the National Museums at Chatham on which we're working in partnership with the National Maritime Museum and the Imperial War Museum. It will house and display the national museum partners' maritime model collections – we'll be bringing about 4,000 of their objects here. That helps to unlock the potential of this place and also the potential of Medway within the Thames Gateway.

Q *How does the trust work?*

A Lots of people don't realise we're an independent charity, and our chairman is an admiral, Sir Ian Garnett. Our objective is to preserve the site in ways appropriate to the archaeology and the significance of the buildings. Forty seven of our 100 buildings are scheduled ancient monuments, the highest concentration anywhere in the country.

We carried out the preservation by reusing the buildings for museum and education purposes. Our other objective is to educate the public about the significance of this place in British history. The original trustees set out a strategy of creating a living museum.

In my view this caused a bit of misunderstanding in the early days, but what they meant and what we have done, was create a place where people live. The Board of Trustees is made up of 12 people, and we work brilliantly together. It is genuinely the case that in the eight-and-a-half years I've been here, there has never been a point of conflict between the executive and the board. Few institutions can say that.

Q *What are the other uses of the site?*

A When buildings are used commercially it's usually because they cannot be used for anything else. However, we have 120 businesses or organisations based on the site, and we have 112 homes with 400 residents, and we have 150,000 visitors a year. So we have created a living museum.

Q *It must have been quite a challenge?*

A It was a struggle all the way because the scale of the challenge. For example, in 1984 we were given £11 million, but this was only half what we needed to make the place wind and weather-tight, and get it into use. All the infrastructure is ours. We're like a small town. We turn over about £3m self-generated income a year. Since 1984, about £52m-53m has been spent on the site.

Q *What's for the future?*

A The long-term aim is to be self-sustaining. We are currently reviewing our five-year corporate plan and we are very much coming back to being the centre of the community.

We have 60,000 volunteer hours every year, equivalent to 28 full-time and that rises in the summer to between 110 and 120 across the board.

I get a real buzz out of running a charity with this level of responsibility. It doesn't get much harder, mainly because the resources often aren't there. And this year we have been awarded the honour of hosting the first-ever national Armed Forces Day on June 27.

FAMILY INCOME BENEFIT FOR £1,500 PER MONTH TO AGE 60

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MALE AGED 30		FEMALE AGED 25	
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT	£14.49	SCOTTISH PROVIDENT	£11.43
LV=	£15.74	SCOTTISH EQUITABLE	£13.01
LEGAL & GENERAL	£16.65	BRIGHT GREY	£13.13
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE	£16.77	LV=	£13.22
BRIGHT GREY	£17.76	LEGAL & GENERAL	£13.65
MALE AGED 40		**FEMALE AGED 40**	
LV=	£17.24	SCOTTISH PROVIDENT	£13.64
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE	£17.35	BUPA	£14.83
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT	£17.67	LEGAL & GENERAL	£15.00
BUPA	£18.72	LV=	£15.10
LEGAL & GENERAL	£19.65	SCOTTISH EQUITABLE	£15.16

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MORTGAGE RATES

RT: Rate type **R%:** Rate percentage **L:** Loan **U:** Until **OD:** Other details

FIXED

FIRST ACTIVE – ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND
RT: FIXED **R%:** 4.19% **L:** 75% **U:** 31/03/2011 **OD:** £1,029

PRINCIPALITY
RT: FIXED **R%:** 4.59% **L:** 75 % **U:** 31/03/2012 **OD:** £1,339

ITL MORTGAGES
RT: FIXED **R%:** 4.89% **L:** 75% **U:** 31/03/2011 **OD:** £1,184

WOOLWICH
RT: FIXED **R%:** 4.99% **L:** 70% **U:** 30/04/2011 **OD:** £1,325

OTHER

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 3.24% **L:** 75% **U:** 2 YEARS **OD:** £2,310

MARSDEN
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 3.49% **L:** 75% **U:** 28/02/2011 **OD:** £924

ABBEY
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 3.79% **L:** 75% **U:** 3 YEARS **OD:** £1,755

CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 3.99% **L:** 75% **U:** 30/06/2012 **OD:** £2,129

• THESE RATES CANNOT BE GUARANTEED AND ARE CORRECT AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS

By TOM HOWARD

SHANE Byrne believes the World Superbike Championship is the ideal platform to finally prove he can challenge the world's best.

The Sheppey rider begins his maiden season in the series at Phillip Island in Australia next Sunday, riding for Italian-based team Sterilgarda Ducati after agreeing a move to the championship in the autumn.

The reigning British Superbike champion will compete against some of the best riders in the world including Max Biaggi, Troy Corser and Noriyuki Haga.

WORLD SUPERBIKE CHAMPIONSHIP 2009 FACT FILE

ESTABLISHED: 1988 when the championship was won by Fred Merkel
REIGNING CHAMPION: Troy Bayliss (Ducati Xerox Team)
2009 TITLE CONTENDERS: Max Biaggi (Aprilia Racing), Carlos Checa (HANNspree Ten Kate Honda), Noriyuki Haga (Ducati Xerox Team), Ruben Xaus (BMW) and Troy Corser (BMW)

2009 CALENDAR:

ROUND 1	March 1	Phillip Island (Australia)
ROUND 2	March 14	Losail (Qatar)
ROUND 3	April 5	Valencia (Spain)
ROUND 4	April 26	Assen (Netherlands)
ROUND 5	May 10	Monza (Italy)
ROUND 6	May 17	Kyalami (South Africa)
ROUND 7	June 21	Misano (San Marino)
ROUND 8	June 28	Donington Park (Great Britain)
ROUND 9	July 26	Brno (Czech Republic)
ROUND 10	September 6	Nurburgring (Germany)
ROUND 11	September 27	Imola (Italy)
ROUND 12	October 4	Magny Cours (France)
ROUND 13	October 25	Portimao (Portugal)

Byrne, who has tasted racing at world level with two disappointing seasons in Moto GP, is confident about the challenge ahead of him for 2009 and feels could have a chance at a title.

He told KOS Media: "Race wins are the target this season. To win is what we go racing for. It is obviously going to be more difficult than the last few years as there are multiple world champions and top riders in the field.

Picture: STERILGARDA DUCATI

New world for Shakey

Racer set for biggest challenge of career against Superbike's finest

"I have got the experience of Moto GP behind me and I have always been under the radar or tucked away somewhere in the motorcycle world. This year is a chance to show exactly what I can do. I could not become a world champion staying where I was so I am here to compete and challenge.

"I have an excellent team around me and hope to take my form last season into this."

With his impressive pace in one-lap shoot-outs and race distances in test sessions, Byrne has already signalled his intent to fellow riders in the paddock.

At an official test at Portugal's Portimao in January, Byrne topped the time sheets for all three days and admitted he was not surprised by his speed with his new team.

He said: "I was pleased to finish top of the time sheets, but it didn't really shock me. The bike I have been riding is pretty much the same as last year so I felt right at home on it. Surprised was not really the word as I have a great team working around me and I knew I would be competitive.

"The championship has about 15 factory riders so I suppose they were shocked to see my pace, but it is always good to show people what you can do."

Rider set for big leap

SHOW JUMPING: Rider Christopher O'Bryan will compete alongside the world's best after qualifying for the inaugural Amateur Championships at the British Open in April.

The Bromley-based rider progressed through a qualifying round to reach the final of the competition, which will take place at Birmingham's NEC on April 16.

The Amateur Championships has been introduced to the British Open programme this year to allow riders from across the country the chance to compete alongside some of the sport's best riders.

O'Bryan could find himself lining up against the likes of Olympic medallists Pippa Funnell, William Fox-Pitt and world champion Zara Phillips, in front of a packed arena at the NEC.

Show jumping veteran Robert Whitaker won the British Open title in 2008 and will be back to try and defend his crown.

Web revamp for Kent

CRICKET: SUPPORTERS of Kent County Cricket Club will notice a big difference when they log onto the club's official website.

The county have revamped their site, www.kent-ccc.co.uk, to include news, online ticket sales, player profiles, player interviews and blogs. There will also be the opportunity for fans to have their say in a new and improved forum.

Kent's director of operations, Jon Fordham, who was instrumental in the launch of the new website, said: "We are naturally delighted with the new site, which was designed by Ashford company, Rogue Interactive. We have launched it with the aim of giving our supporters even more.

"There will be a greater opportunity to read the news as it happens and the new site is much more pleasing on the eye. I am confident that it will prove really popular."

Young Dragons step onto international stage

A QUINTET of Medway Dragons got a taste of international rugby league last weekend when they lined up for Harlequins against Wales.

Lawrence Chittil, who is also in the England squad, captained the under-14 side for the annual friendly at Feltham in west London. He was joined by his international team-mate Luke Edwards, plus Tom Coyd, Callum Daulby and Richard Harris.

All five have less than two years' experience in the sport and impressed during the Dragons' hugely successful debut season in 2008.

Martin Coyd, Dragons' head coach, was delighted to see the club so well represented.

He said: "It was a great honour for the club and I was really pleased for them. The other big contributors to the team were West London Sharks and Elmbridge Eagles, who are established names, so to have come from nowhere to join them is brilliant."

Edwards in particular stood out, scoring one try and making another after coming off the bench for the second half.

His efforts almost inspired Quins to victory, but Wales claimed a 20-16 win thanks to a last-gasp try.

Gavin Hyder, who last year became the first Dragon to sign a contract with Quins, played for the Super League side's under-18 team against France, winning the man-of-the-match award.

Marcus Parnell followed in his footsteps last month but was left ruing his luck after a dog broke his finger in a bizarre training accident.

Martin Coyd also enjoyed success as part of the coaching team in the club's under-16s' thrilling 16-15 win against Wales.

GOOD EXPERIENCE: Medway Dragons youngsters took on the Welsh in London last weekend

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Athletes shine at Euro indoor trials

SEVERAL Kent-based athletes rubbed shoulders with the best in the country last weekend at the European Indoor Trials in Sheffield.

While none of the county's competitors won medals to force their way into contention for the British team heading to Turin in Italy, next month, there were several commendable performances.

Blackheath & Bromley sprinter James Alaka dipped under seven seconds in the 60 metres and the 19-year-old ran a season's best as he just missed out on qualifying for the final of the 200 metres.

Picture: GETTY IMAGES

SEASON'S BEST: James Alaka in the 60m race

Of Alaka's club mates, Scott Huggins fared best as he finished sixth in the pole vault by clearing five metres. Amy Goodsell finished fifth in her heat of the 60 metres, while Lauren Blackie was 11th in the triple jump.

Bexley high jumper Martin Lloyd produced a season's best of 2.17 metres to finish seventh and Medway & Maidstone's Luke Smallwood ran a personal best in the 400 metres. In the 60 metre hurdles, Chris Wakeford finished fourth in his heat.

Elsewhere, three athletes won gold at the National Under-20 Championships in Birmingham.

Shaunagh Brown's 14.51 metres in the women's shot was the furthest by a junior this year and saw her win the title with ease, almost 90cms further than her nearest challenger. The throw put the promising Blackheath & Bromley youngster, 18, up to fourth in the senior rankings, ahead of Olympic heptathlete Kelly Sotherton.

Club mate Lorraine Ugen took gold in the women's long jump, while Ashford's Dwyte Smith took the men's title.

Judo club throws doors open at dojo

THE first stage of the major redevelopment at Medway Park was completed on Friday with the official opening of the judo facility.

The whole £11.1 million project to turn the Black Lion Leisure Centre in Gillingham into a regional centre of sporting excellence is due to be finished by January, 2010. The dojo is the first section to be signed off and will become the new home of Medway Park Judo Club, which has changed its name from Rainham Judo Club for the move.

Former world silver medallist Peter Cousins gave a demonstration with the club's junior members to commemorate the opening.

Wendy Malkinson, club secretary, said: "The dojo will give us the capacity to develop our players, membership, coaches and volunteers within a dedicated judo environment."

The purpose-built facility doubles the club's floor space and will allow them to host small-scale competitions. It is the culmination of more than a decade of fundraising from the club which, along with grants from Sport England, has funded all the fixtures and fittings within the dojo.

Online or offside?

DAVID PRITCHARD examines the legacy of the internet forum

THEY can be brash, reactionary, often incoherent, occasionally downright libellous and unless you are Gillingham manager Mark Stimson, increasingly harder to ignore.

Internet message boards for football fans are a relatively new phenomenon but have quickly become an addiction for many. For the insatiable fan they are now the place to go to talk about the last game, discuss the latest outrageous transfer rumours and slag off their least favourite player.

The last point can often dominate boards and range from the humorous – former Gills defender Guy Butters was once put up for sale for £5 by fans while at Brighton – to the deeply offensive.

If you look hard enough then it will not be long before you find something critical about everyone in the squad.

Despite this, the message boards appear to be irresistible to some players, with Gills striker Mark McCammon this week admitting he had been stung by derogatory comments he had read while out injured.

Criticising

He said: "I've seen some on the fans' forums criticising me, so I've got to try to prove them wrong and show them what I'm capable of.

"I'd ask them to be patient with me, I know I can do it and produce the goods. It hurts, but at the end of the day you've got to rise above it, the supporters don't know me."

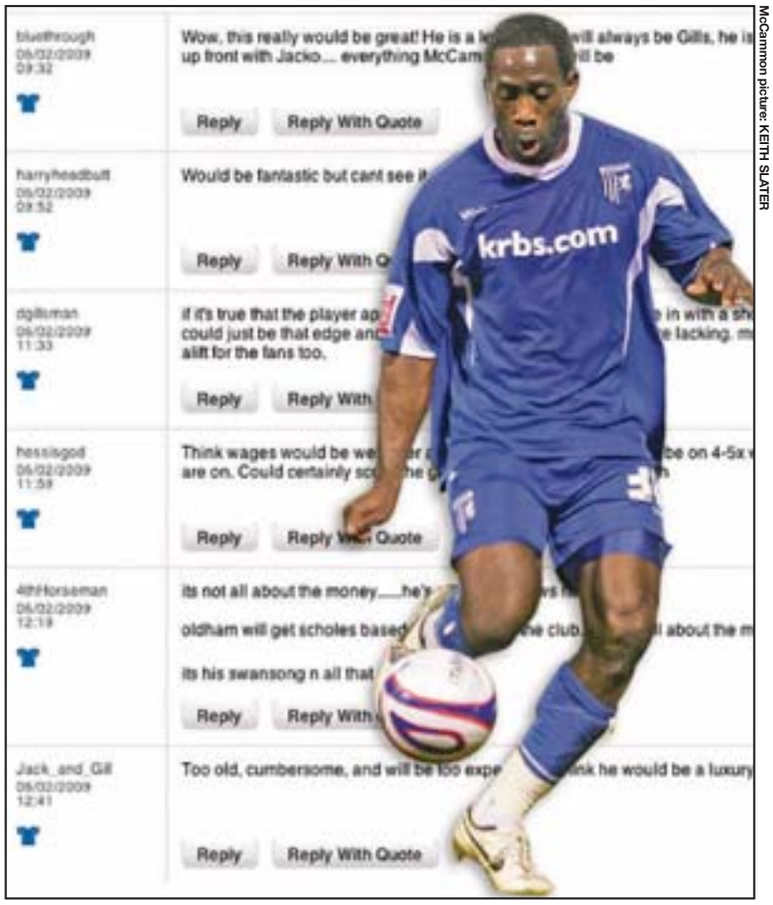
Stimson freely admits to being a technophobe who would not know where to look if he had the inclination to view the forums.

Given some of the comments written about him, especially after a defeat, it is probably a wise move and he believes it is counterproductive for players to look at message boards.

He said: "If [Mark McCammon] starts reading things like that he's got to be crazy because you're not going to gain anything out of that.

"If you read them you're probably just going to get depressed and run down. I'm surprised he read it, for someone of his experience he's just got to get on with it. He knows if he's doing good or bad."

But there is little doubt the forum is here to stay and in the digital age is likely to assume a key role in fans' interaction with each other, replacing the traditional fanzine culture.



McCammon picture: KEITH SLATER

PAINFUL READING: Mark McCammon says although he has been stung by criticism he received on an internet forum, he will work hard to prove his doubters wrong

Alan Liptrott, co-editor of Gillsconnect, one of Gillingham's main forums, is an enthusiastic supporter but feels it would be a mistake to see the forums as an accurate barometer of what the club's fans think as a whole.

"They're great," he said. "I think they will get even bigger, it used to be you would look in the newspaper for everything but now everything's all over the internet in hours.

"I imagine it must hurt people like Mark McCammon when they read something negative. What people have to remember is it's probably only one per cent of the fan base who are contributing, as long as the players realise it doesn't reflect what everyone thinks."

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Another gold medal for Staff and co

OLYMPIC Team Sprint champion Jamie Staff boosted his World Championship chances by winning gold in the Track Cycling World Cup meeting at Copenhagen last week.

The event was the 35-year-old's first competitive race since the November World Cup event in Manchester and he showed no drop in pace.

The Ashford rider joined up with the rest of the Beijing gold medal-winning Team Sprint trio of Jason Kenny and Chris Hoy, and blitzed the track to set the fastest qualifying time of 44.110 seconds.

In the final Staff, Hoy and Kenny continued to impress as they beat the Cofidis team by seven tenths of a second to claim the gold medal with a time of 44.129 seconds.

Staff was delighted with the victory and his performance after taking time out from the sport during the winter.

Picture: PA PHOTOS

TOP TRIO: Jamie Staff (right) with team-mates Chris Hoy (left) and Jason Kenny (middle) raced to gold in the Team Sprint

He told britishcycling.org.uk: "Job done. It is a good result and I'm very happy with the rides. We have all been apart the last three months and we need to work together technically and I think this ride will reassure Chris Hoy, who has sleepless nights about getting on. He shouldn't do as he is such a fast guy."

The next task for Staff is to try an impress the Great Britain team squad selectors for the World Championships in Poland in March.

After losing in the final to the French at the World Championships at Manchester last year, Staff and the Great Britain team are eager to show their victory in Beijing was not a fluke.

Despite a number of young riders coming through the ranks, Staff is confident he will keep his place in the Great Britain squad for the event which begins on March 25.

PACE CAMP: (l-r)Academy director Phil Relf, Matt Coles, Phil Edwards, Dennis Lillee, Warren Lee, Adam Ball, and MRF coach DK

Life in the fast lane

Kent bowlers work with ace of pace Lillee

By GLENN PEARSON

FOUR Kent pace bowlers will be hoping to hit their straps early ahead of this summer after having been put through their paces by Australian Test legend Dennis Lillee at a training camp in India.

The pace quartet have just arrived back at St Lawrence after spending 10 days at the world famous MRF pace bowling camp in Chennai, where they were under the watchful eye of Lillee.

Academy players Matt Coles, 18, who plays his cricket with Hartley Country Club and Adam Ball, 15, from Bexley were joined by development contract players Phil Edwards, 24, from Gore Court and Warren Lee, 21, from Blackheath.

The four had a chance to experience life as professional cricketers, work on developing their bowling technique and tactics, as well as combating the intense Chennai heat.

Academy director Phil Relf, who led the group to India, felt the experience of working with a bowling legend such as Lillee will give the county's up-and-coming bowlers an insight into what is needed to become a top-class cricketer.

He said: "The guys had access to grass wickets and Dennis Lillee on a one-to-one basis. It was a fantastic experience for them to be working under such a trained eye and you could see he was a guy who was very passionate about technique and fitness.

"He saw our guys on day one and within two balls, as well as without the use of video, his trained eye saw things that we spent time analysing on a video for a while.

Impact

"The big difference was that he was able to give the fix and you tended to see an impact with the ball coming out at a better pace and he was an interesting guy to listen too."

The four bowlers spent the morning sessions working on their fitness, while coaches at the MRF camp stressed the importance of running techniques which should help with their approach to the stumps.

The afternoons were spent bowling under the watchful eye of Lillee. He focused on their front arm position and approach to the wicket and Relf said Lillee was particularly impressed with the group's youngest bowling prospect, Adam Ball.

Relf said: "He had a fantastic 10 days and by the end of it we had him coming off his full run up.

"His technique shaped up really well and he probably impressed Lillee more than any of the others because of his raw potential as a young lad."

Another to have benefitted from the experience is Matt Coles. The medium pacer from Maidstone has been with the Academy for several years and the club will have to make a decision on his future this year.

He said: "It was an interesting experience and worthwhile because just to hear Dennis Lillee's thoughts on you and his knowledge of the game, was really good.

"He felt I had an old-style action but felt there was only a few things to work on which is all part of my long-term progression."

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Lion Khan is a Freddie replacement

AMJAD Khan has been called up to the England squad as cover for the injured Andrew Flintoff.

Khan, 28, flew to the Caribbean from New Zealand on Thursday where he was part of the England Lions squad, together with Kent team-mates Rob Key and Joe Denly.

He has now been promoted to the full Test squad as cover for Flintoff who has struggled in the drawn second Test with the West Indies as a result of a hip injury.

Kent coach Simon Willis said: "This is great news for both Amjad and Kent County Cricket Club. He has looked sharp in the nets and is in good physical shape. He totally deserves his call-up and I am confident that he will do well."

It's the second time Khan has been called up to the full England side after he was brought into the squad for the injured Ryan Sidebottom for the two Tests against India at the end of last year.

It has been a dramatic year for the Danish-born seamer after having only returned to the Kent side midway through last summer.

The quick bowler had spent 16 months on the sidelines, including missing the whole of the 2007 season, after suffering cruciate ligament damage while on tour with England A.

Khan was also called up to the one-day side as back up for the final two One-Day Internationals in India before the series was abandoned as a result of the terror attacks in Mumbai.

AT THE FREDDIE: Amjad Khan has been called up by England to cover for the injured all-rounder and talisman Andrew Flintoff

Picture: IGOR KUPCO

RACE AGAINST TIME: Martin van Jaarsveld

Van Jaarsveld on top in injury fight

KENT vice-captain Martin van Jaarsveld looks to be winning his battle to be ready for the start of the season.

The South African dislocated his shoulder in a game for his state side, Titans, and it was feared the 34-year-old would miss a substantial part of Kent's summer.

He had opinions from several consultants with wide-ranging results, but Kent's physio Nimmo Reid has since been sent to South Africa and his reports are that van Jaarsveld could make the start of the season.

Kent coach Graham Ford, speaking from South Africa, told Kent on Sunday: "It is early to say too much but things are looking hopeful for Martin.

"He is being monitored and treated and has been in touch with Nimmo Reid, who is in South Africa, and as things stand Nimmo and medical specialists are pretty positive he will respond to treatment and be in good shape for our season."

The news will be a massive boost for the county as no doubt the loss of arguably their most consistent batsman, who also won the PCA Player of the Year last season, would be massive.

The club had a contingency plan to potentially bring in an overseas batsman, rather than their preferred target of a bowler, if van Jaarsveld were to miss the majority of the season, but it appears they will no longer have to explore that avenue.

Meanwhile, Ford also told Kent on Sunday that he has still not heard from the England and Wales Cricket Board about the vacant post of England head coach and feels his chances have diminished.

He said: "There has been no contact and I'm pretty sure that is that."

HOPEFUL: Plans for the Wanderers' ground

Wanderers close in on new home

CRAY Wanderers' search for an end to their lengthy exile from their spiritual home got one step closer this week as the club announced the site for a new ground.

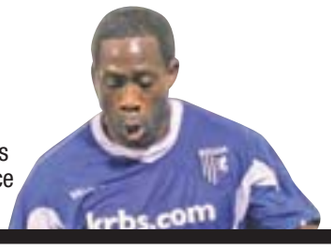
The new 17-acre plot at Sandy Lane in St Paul's Cray is next to the A20 and surrounded by other existing sports facilities, including a ski slope and golf course. It will be built to at least Conference standards.

It is 36 years since Ryman South side Wanderers lost their Grassmeade ground and they have spent the last decade sharing at Hayes Lane with neighbours Bromley.

Cray chairman Gary Hillman told the club's website: "We have been actively looking for over 10 years for a site in the Cray area that we feel creates the right infrastructure to sustain a new ground."

The club hope to complete a feasibility study by December before submitting planning permission and are looking to move in for the start of the 2014-15 season.

FOOTBALL
Web forum doubters wrong, says Gills ace McCammon **78**



CRICKET
Kent's Khan called up as cover for Flintoff **79**

Fears for club as web subscribers fail to re-sign

WEBSITE OWNERS 'LOG-OFF' AT FLEET

By **TOM HOWARD**

WEBSITE-owned Ebbsfleet United face an anxious wait over the club's future after less than half of the required membership failed to renew their subscription.

The Kent club had hoped to lure up to 20,000 of its website members back, but only 9,407 renewed by Thursday's deadline.

The news came as a blow to the Blue Square Premier club, with chief executive David Davis admitting that selling the club was an option, but it would be the last resort.

Website group, www.myfootballclub.co.uk, bought Ebbsfleet for £635,000 this time last year and it was hoped the majority of those would renew their subscription of £35 each.

However, less than half chose to renew, meaning Ebbsfleet are some £250,000 short of meeting their £500,000 target needed for the day-to-day running of the club.

Davis also said that if figures failed to rise to at least 15,000, cut backs would have to be implemented and also refused to rule out a return to being a part-time club.

He said: "We will have to look at figures and we may have to make cut backs, but I think selling the club would be the last resort.

"Going back to being part-time is an option and we are not ruling it out at this stage. The clubs that are part-time in this league have a similar wage structure to us. We may look into it but we will have to see if it is viable."

Once the takeover was complete in February last year, the membership swelled to a staggering 32,000, but the large majority of members declined to take up an opportunity to pick the team, which was one of the original concepts sold by MyFootballClub.

It has meant that manager Liam Daish has had a free reign to choose the team, but perhaps the members' biggest decision was to ratify the sale of star striker John Akinde to Bristol City in September.

More than 7,000 members agreed the sale, while last month about 3,000 voted to sign defender Darius Charles.

Davis claimed the club are still attracting new members every day, but believes there are several reasons to explain the club's drop in membership renewals.

He added: "One of the reasons why the numbers have been a bit low is many members thought when the project was introduced, that a club like Leeds United or Arsenal would be bought. Another reason is people in the UK have said that the club is just too far away from them. However, we have a solid fan base all over the world especially in Australia and in the USA."

MyFootballClub concept creator, Will Brooks, said he stands by the original concept and believes the target will be reached to secure the future of the club.

He said: "When the renewals came around we knew that we would lose around 10,000 members straight away. We have had some members join and never even go on the website.

"As far as the concept goes, I wouldn't change a thing. I think we have done ever so well to get where we are, but it is interesting now as we have the challenge of making it sustainable."

The club are hopeful that other members who joined after the takeover was complete, will renew throughout the course of the year.

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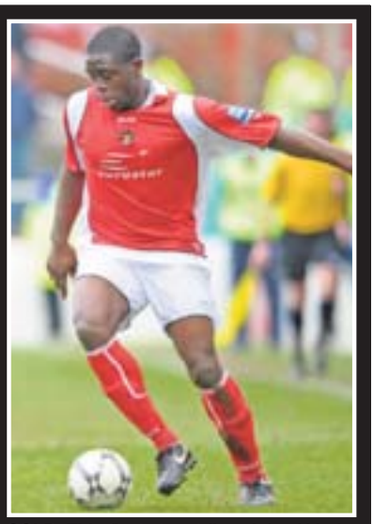

SOLD: Ebbsfleet star striker, John Akinde

EBBSFLEET UNITED AND MYFOOTBALLCLUB HISTORY

APRIL 2007: MyFootballClub concept created by Will Brooks

FEBRUARY 2008: MyFootballClub completed a £635,000 takeover of Ebbsfleet United with 25,000 members

MAY 2008: Ebbsfleet lifted the FA Trophy by beating Torquay United at Wembley

JULY 2008: MyFc membership grows to 32,000 and help to raise £20,000 to sign striker Michael Gash

SEPTEMBER 2008: MyFc members vote for the first football transfer of its kind in the UK with the £140,000 sale of John Akinde to Bristol City

FEBRUARY 2009: Majority of memberships up for renewal, but only 9,407 agree to extend their membership so far, raising £258,693 towards a £500,000 target

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Annual report a tough read, admit Kent

KENT are preparing themselves for a backlash from members who are set to receive a copy of the club's annual report tomorrow morning, ***writes Glenn Pearson.***

It's understood the results will not make good reading for members and supporters, reflecting the full scale of the economic crisis and the postponement of the £10 million redevelopment of the St Lawrence ground.

The club had announced ambitious redevelopment plans to build a 130-bed hotel and conference facilities at St Lawrence which was seen as a sustainable way of running the business for 12 months of the year.

However, a contractor pulled out of beginning work on the Bat and Ball site last year, leaving club chairman George Kennedy predicting in an interview with Kent on Sunday in December that work is unlikely to get underway until 2010.

He said: "The only worrying thing is we are anxious to improve the facilities, we need to do something. In 2010 the English Premier League starts and the money coming in should be quite substantial from the ECB. If nothing happened until then we would use the money for redevelopment."

The county have already reacted to the news of their gloomy annual results, which has seen new roles at the club for Jamie Clifford, Jon Fordham and Neil Peak, and included making eight redundancies.

Clifford, who heads a new business development department at the club, understands there will be a reaction from supporters.

He said: "The members will make their feelings known next week but we have already implemented changes with specific measures to grow the Kent membership. Kent have never embarked on such a scheme for members before."

There were concerns that while preparing a budget for this financial year the club would not be able to fund an overseas player, but those fears have also been allayed.

• ***Pick up a copy of next weekend's Kent on Sunday for an exclusive report on Kent's strategy for the future.***

Picture: ADY KERRY

TOUGH TIMES: Kent expect a rough ride over their annual report

WEST KENT EDITION

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